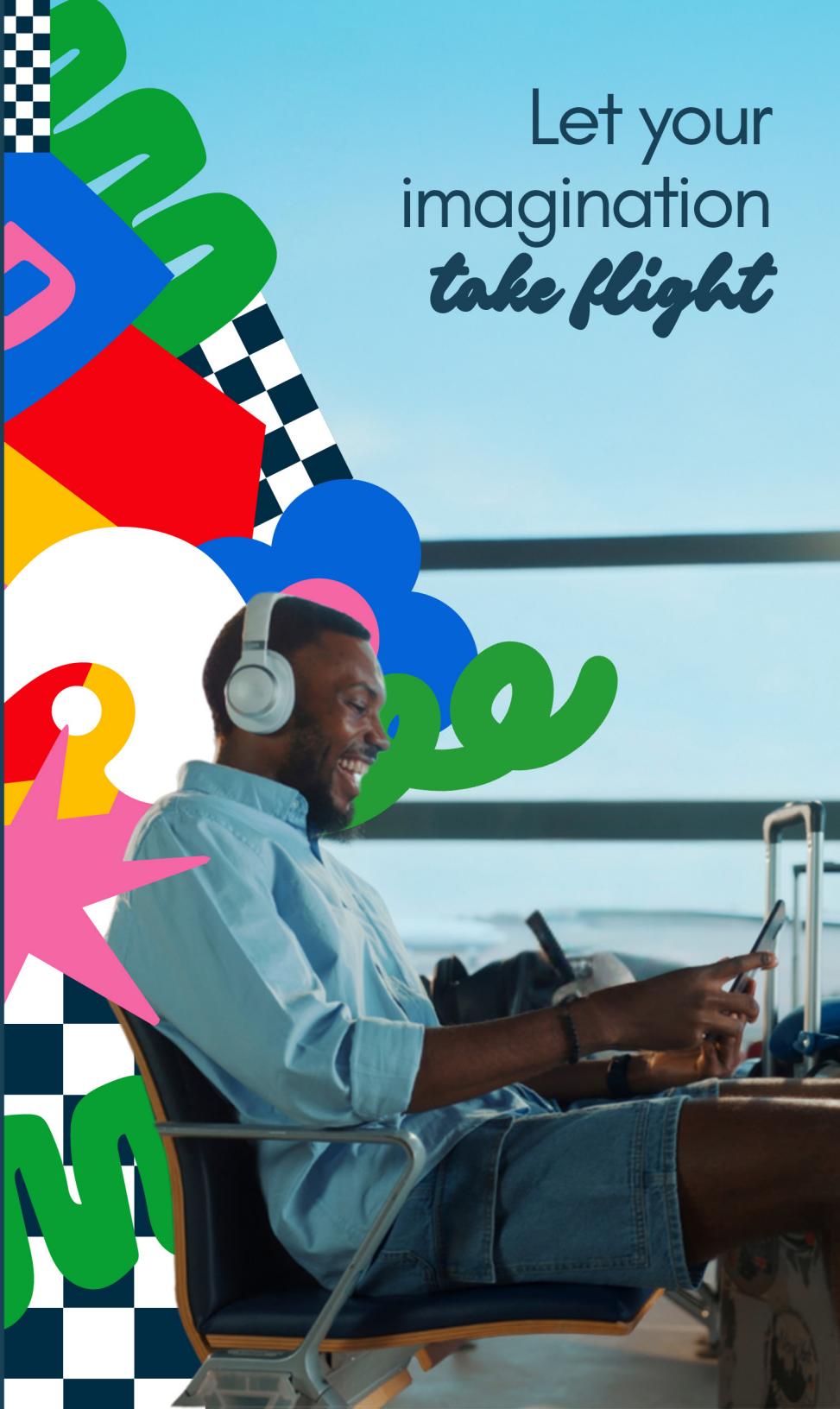


2025 Annual Report

# Oakland Public Library

Let your  
imagination  
*take flight*





At Oakland Public Library, everything we do begins and ends with people: our community, our partners and the staff who bring our mission to life every day. This year, we proudly celebrate the programs and collaborations that make our work possible and that continue to strengthen our connection to Oakland and deepen our impact across the city.

Our Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program remains a shining example of how young voices shape our cultural landscape. Next year, OYPL will celebrate its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary and this year we were honored to celebrate our youngest poet laureate yet, Cael Dueñas-Lara, whose work reminds us of the brilliance and power emerging from Oakland's youth.

Partnerships were at the heart of 2025. Our collaboration with KALW 91.7 FM expanded access to cultural storytelling and unique programming, while our partnership with the Oakland San Francisco Bay Airport (OAK) introduced thousands of travelers to OPL's free digital reading resources. We also marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Books for Wider Horizons, a beloved partnership that continues to inspire early literacy and bring joyful reading experiences to children across Oakland. Our new partnership with the Oakland Ballers also strengthened our literacy programming.

For 75 years, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library have stood beside us, and we celebrated their anniversary at an open house hosted by the Bookmark Bookstore with a poem by our youth poet laureate, Cael, and proclamation by Mayor Barbara Lee. Their unwavering support has made countless programs, capital investments and special milestones for OPL possible.

Across the system, our staff led creative and meaningful work.

We launched our first systemwide Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, uniting branches through vibrant programming. The Oakland History Center and Newspapers and Magazines Department at the Main Library invited residents of all ages to explore local history in a hands-on, imaginative way by creating dioramas, bringing neighborhood stories to life.

While we are highlighting three programs this year in this report, OPL offers over 5,000 programs and events yearly.

This year, Oaklanders joined a Swiftie dance party at Piedmont Ave Branch, teens stayed active with boxing classes at the 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Branch and every Friday neighbors gathered at the West Oakland Branch to cook healthy meals and pick up low-cost or free groceries. Local authors also shared their work and insights during author talks at the Rockridge Branch. These examples offer only a snapshot of the vibrant programming OPL provides.

Finally, this year, I want to celebrate and highlight our Elmhurst Branch. Nichole Brown, the branch manager, and her team reimagined the library as "Grandma's House," a warm, welcoming space rooted in care, comfort and connection. The thoughtful rebranding, dedication to intentional programming and services while creating an inviting environment exemplify how libraries can feel like home.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to elevating community voices, building partnerships and offering programs and services that expand access, belonging and opportunity for all Oaklanders.

Thank you for being part of our story and for reminding us every day why public libraries matter.

**Jamie Turbak**  
Library Director



# Partnerships

## OPL & KALW: A New Partnership for Community Programming and Creative Engagement

In 2025, Oakland Public Library inaugurated a new partnership with local public radio station KALW 91.7 FM Bay Area Public Media bringing together the power of music, storytelling and community in fresh ways.

The collaboration kicked off during the February 2025 open house at the Main Library, celebrating the building's reopening after a six-month closure for renovations.

As part of the celebration, KALW's radio host and DJ Juan "Wonway Posibul" Amador led "The Art of DJing" workshop, which introduced participants to DJ techniques, music mixing and the creative process behind spinning records. Attendees of all ages enjoyed hands-on learning and the communal energy of music.

Building on that momentum, OPL and KALW expanded the partnership to offer an all-ages storytelling series at seven branches. Led by Sudanese American journalist Hana Baba, host of KALW's "Crosscurrents," the program "Folktales from the Sudan" featured stories of magical adventures, moral lessons, humor and classic folkloric themes such as ghouls, clever children, animals and love. The stories were drawn from Sudan's oral traditions that Baba heard growing up from her uncle and family, and were told in English and Arabic.

By joining forces with KALW, OPL expanded its capacity to deliver programming that invited Oakland's diverse communities to come together, learn, celebrate and imagine.



## Books for Wider Horizons Turns 30

For three decades, Oakland Public Library and Books for Wider Horizons (BWH) volunteers have worked together to deliver weekly reading experiences to thousands of young children in Oakland.

Books for Wider Horizons is an innovative program that trains volunteers to provide storytimes and then matches them with local preschools, Head Starts, or child development centers that request support. Volunteer readers then visit the same classroom weekly throughout the school year, sharing their enthusiasm for stories and for reading with the next generation.

Books for Wider Horizons volunteers often describe their weekly classroom visits as the highlight of their week. One longtime volunteer said she is greeted "like a rock star" each time she arrives to lead storytime.

The library is especially pleased to have hired a new coordinator for BWH. Kam De Leon-Fong will support BWH volunteers with training, scheduling, and more. They will also recruit and train new volunteers each fall.

New to this role but not to the library, De Leon-Fong, has worked at the César E. Chávez and Eastmont branches as a library aide and assistant and is excited about this role. "I've always loved storytime because it sparks imagination and curiosity, and builds a strong foundation for reading," they said. "I've worked with infants and toddlers through storytime and early literacy, and with K-8 students in language arts, but my favorite part is inspiring young learners to enjoy reading."

Thanks to BWH volunteers, the library makes an impact on hundreds of young children each week, promoting the joy and power of stories.



## OPL & OAK Airport Digital Reading Campaign

In November 2025, Oakland Public Library launched a new partnership with the Oakland San Francisco Bay Airport (OAK) to bring free digital reading to travelers. As part of this initiative, OPL created a series of digital ads that now appear on 30 screens throughout the airport, promoting instant access to e-books, audiobooks and digital magazines through the Libby app.

The campaign is designed to make reading accessible to everyone moving through OAK. Oakland residents can enjoy unlimited digital access with their library card, while non-residents receive a complimentary 7-day pass, no card is required. By reaching thousands of passengers daily, this collaboration expands awareness of OPL's digital offerings and invites both locals and visitors to explore the library's full range of resources.

This initiative supports OPL's ongoing goal to promote literacy for all, meeting people where they are and reducing barriers to reading. Whether travelers are preparing for a long flight or returning home to Oakland, the airport partnership ensures that everyone has the opportunity to connect, explore and grow.

# A Home Run Partnership for the Community

## Oakland Public Library & the Oakland Ballers

The Oakland Ballers, also known as the Ballers or the B's, had a standout year in 2025. Oakland's new professional baseball team, established in 2024, finished the season with a 73-23 record and won the Pioneer League championship on Sept. 21.

But even before they captured the title, the Ballers had gained big fans at the Oakland Public Library.

In July, B's shortstop Tremayne Cobb Jr. and general manager Laura Geist visited the West Oakland Branch Library for a baseball-themed storytime with children's librarian Ms. Rachel.

The Ballers also donated free tickets that were raffled to summer program readers in three age categories: kids, teens and adults.

On Aug. 2, Scrappy the Rally Possum, the mascot for the Ballers, delighted the crowd at the library's annual End of Summer Celebration. Scrappy joined families at the Main Library for a full day of activities, including a mobile aquarium featuring native fish, a performance by Daisy the Clown, and a storytime with Ms. Rachel and Ms. Remy.

Whether at their home on Raimondi Field in West Oakland or at library branches, the B's showed enthusiastic support for their partnership with OPL in 2025.



# Friends of the Oakland Public Library

In 2025, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by doing what they do best: supporting the library with enthusiastic fundraising and advocacy.

Starting with the annual Oakland Public Library Advocates Mixer in April and continuing through the Sept. 27 open house at the Bookmark Bookstore, members gathered with donors, volunteers and library staff to celebrate the milestone. In addition, special fundraising appeals to mark the anniversary raised an additional \$55,000 for Oakland's public libraries.

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library, also known as the Friends, would not have reached 75 years without the dedication of hundreds of volunteers who have worked in the bookstore, managed memberships and run the nonprofit organization.

The all-volunteer board of directors honored Kathryn Sterbenc, who stepped down as president in November 2025 after eight years in the role. During her tenure, she navigated the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, advocated for two successful library parcel tax measures and helped oversee the move of the Bookmark Bookstore to its current location at 933 Broadway.

The Friends welcomed Ynez Arce as the new president. Arce has served on the board since 2017 and previously held the role of vice president. She has also served on nearly every board committee, sometimes on multiple committees at once so the organization is in experienced hands.

Oakland Public Library thanks Sterbenc, Arce, the members and volunteers for their hard work and support.

**Ynez Arce**

Friends of the Oakland Public Library  
Board President



# THE TOWN'S TOP 10

Town's Top Ten 2025 highlights the most checked-out books by patrons across children's, teen and adult collections.

## CHILDREN



## TEEN



## ADULT



# The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Program is Turning 15!

Since 2012, Oakland teens have applied to serve as the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate (OYPL). In 2026, Oakland Public Library will celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program and its laureates.

Coordinated by Oakland Public Library's Teen Services Department, the Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is a citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and connect young writers with wide-ranging opportunities. As planning begins for the program's 15th-year celebration, it is also a time to reflect on its growth, the young leaders it has supported and the community of young poets in Oakland.

"On a personal level, the OYPL program helped me grow as a writer and denizen, empowering me to connect with the people of Oakland in a profound, fundamentally human way," said Steph Yun, Oakland's first youth poet laureate. "Watching the program flourish, we see this continued legacy of reciprocal nurturing and care, from Oakland to its young writers and back again."

The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate is chosen through a two-round process by a panel of community leaders, educators, poets and other luminaries who evaluate applicants on both their poetry and leadership qualities.

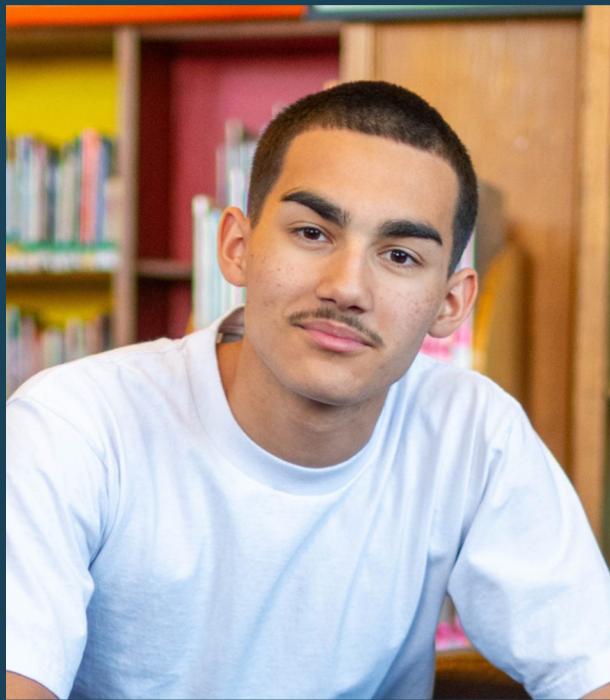
Announced yearly by the Oakland Mayor, City Council members, or other key community stakeholders at a ceremony featuring performances by all finalists, the laureate represents Oakland and its youth at public and private events and serves as a model for other youth each year.

The laureate also wins a \$5,000 scholarship and has an opportunity to develop a poet-leader project. Finalists receive a \$500 prize. All funds are generously provided by the Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

Beyond naming a laureate, the goal of the OYPL program is to foster a community of young poets and youth advocates. This community has grown beyond what was imagined at the start.

It is now a community of poets supporting their peers and OYPL alumni returning to participate in events, mentor poets and even work at the library in support of the program. In addition, OYPL poets have created a resource list about poetry for library users, formed an award-winning SLAM team and designed a series of postcards featuring art and words by youth inspired by interviews with Oakland elders.

"The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program is truly for everyone," said Sharon McKellar, the supervising librarian for Teen Services. "The teens who participate, of course, are the most obvious beneficiaries. I'd argue, though, that the program has as great of an impact on the adults that have the chance to listen to and learn from them and on the children who get to see and work with them. As a community we need to open our ears and our hearts to the stories of our youth. It's the only way forward."



**Cael Dueñas-Lara** the 2025 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, has been making waves all over Oakland with performances, school visits and workshops. Below Dueñas-Lara speaks with Sharon McKellar about Oakland, poetry, the OYPL program and more.

Read the full interview : [oaklandlibrary.org/oapl](http://oaklandlibrary.org/oapl)

### **Why do you think it's important for Oakland to have a Youth Poet Laureate?**

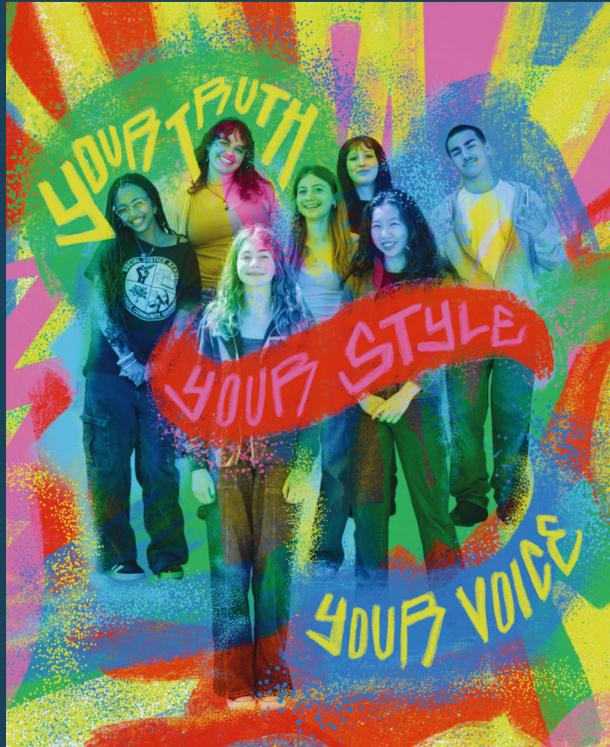
Adults can inspire us, yes, but no one will reach us more than people who we could consider our brother, or sister, or cousin. At the end of the day, we don't believe adults all the time. Maybe that's been from past experiences, or maybe we are just wired like that. But if we hear the truth from someone who is seeing the world from the same point of view, at the same time, and then producing this beautiful art, then we can actually relate to it and see ourselves as it.

### **What would you tell other teens who might be reluctant to share their writing or to apply for the program?**

You write for you. To be a poet only takes being vulnerable with the paper, but to use your gift of writing, of thinking in a creative mindset, is so much more precious. The feeling of people engaging with your writing is something so beautiful that I wish everyone could experience it. You should apply to the program because someone will engage with your writing, and I want you to experience that feeling. In fact, I, myself, want to be the person to engage with your writing.

### **How has the OYPL program impacted the way you view your writing?**

By making me view it (my writing) as not just for me. I know see my writing as not just about me being vulnerable with the paper. I see it as not only an outlet for me to express my words, but as something that reaches the ears of people. Something that they actually agree or don't agree with, which I love especially because I understand that my writing sparks conversation. This is something I never would've imagined.



# Where the Neighborhood Comes Home

## The Story of Elmhurst Branch

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, students filled every corner of the Elmhurst Branch after school, and adult readership and circulation of the books was high. And then the doors closed and when the doors reopened mid-pandemic, the community did not return. By August 2022, the little library that once thrummed with life had become unnervingly still. At the same time, the Elmhurst Branch faced a deeper issue: it lacked a clear identity that defined its role in the community.

While other branches are known as the cultural anchors for many neighborhoods in Oakland, the Elmhurst Branch lacked that identity and felt like the library that was "just there."

A library is the cornerstone of a community, a place people are drawn to visit, but it takes more than hosting events or buying books to make this happen; it requires a sense of place and purpose grounded in the community's legacy.

From the outside, the Elmhurst Branch does not look like a library. Its front entrance resembles a home where a grandmother might welcome you with a hug and a meal. The branch's homey appearance inspired branch manager Nichole Brown to research the neighborhood's history, which in turn led to her idea to transform the branch into "Grandma's House."

The Elmhurst neighborhood was once a robust and thriving working-class community of Black families who found opportunity after being redlined out of nearby areas. Many purchased their first homes through the GI Bill after World

and worked in nearby factories, including Granny Goose, Sunshine Biscuits, Wonder Bread, Hostess and Chrysler. These families built a strong community and a deep sense of belonging.

Over time, the factories closed, and many families moved away, but one constant remained: the grandmothers who stayed. They remain in the Elmhurst neighborhood to this day, tending to their homes, welcoming children and grandchildren back during summers and holidays and keeping the neighborhood's roots alive.

"Honoring these grandmothers, and the memory of my own foster mother-a grandmother in East Oakland who offered me refuge growing up-inspired me to reintroduce the Elmhurst Branch as Grandma's House," Brown said. "I wanted the branch to embody the warmth, safety and belonging I once found in both her home and at the library."

The feeling of Grandma's house is now the Elmhurst Branch identity. Here, since 1949, the purpose is to welcome every visitor like family. Grandmothers are known to feed their families and communities and at the branch food is always available because feeding people is to care for them.

Children are always offered after-school snacks, and adult and teen programs include something to eat – at a minimum, coffee and cookies.

Creating a welcoming environment that resembles visiting a grandmother's home is part of the decor and visuals at the Elmhurst Branch. Handcrafted decorations, family photos and colorful displays add the sentimental touches patrons would find in a grandmother's living room. The vegetable garden and pet chickens invite them to visit the backyard.

Over the past three years, the Elmhurst community has rediscovered its neighborhood library. Because it is just like Grandma's house, and the library reflects the

legacy of the Elmhurst community. The library is no longer just there. It is now a place with history, heart and an open door for anyone who needs a safe place to rest.



Elmhurst Branch Staff (l-R)

Iliana Pena, Nichole Brown, Gerardo Jaime, Eboni Weston, Michael Bare, and Willie Taylor,  
Staff not pictured: Steve Shaw, Larry Whitaker, Alejandra Ruiz-Flores, Nadine Wombat,  
Kevin Polk, and Michael Wallace Davis.



**Impact is more than numbers. At the Elmhurst Branch, library programs change lives, helping people feel seen, supported and empowered. In 2025, the branch hosted:**

### Fix-It Clinic with Reggie Lewis

- ✚ Repaired 50+ phones
- ✚ Helped a woman continue bird photography
- ✚ Gave teens a positive place to spend time
- ✚ Helped community members recover photos and access email for job applications

### UC Extension Nutrition Class

Adapted for adults with developmental differences

- ✚ 24 students earned a UC-affiliated certificate
- ✚ Improved confidence and interest in future learning
- ✚ Newly adapted curriculum now available for statewide use

### Partnership with Freedom from Frame Up

- ✚ Hosted the only free event of the Bay Area Mumia Tour
- ✚ Drew 100+ attendees, many Black men new to library programs
- ✚ Participants expressed gratitude for accessible, representative programming

### Small moments with big impact

- ✚ Talk by Dr. J. Finley with UC Berkeley African American Studies
- ✚ Provided meaningful representation for a student who had never seen a gay, masculine presenting Black woman professor
- ✚ Student described the experience as transformative

**Take a video tour of the Elmhurst Branch!**



# All The News That's Fit to Build: Local News Dioramas

## News & local history Buffs showcase their love by creating dioramas



Librarians in the Oakland History Center (OHC) and the Magazines & Newspapers Department at the Main Library worked together to invite community members to create dioramas based on local news articles. Contributors of all ages were invited to search the library's newspaper collections, either in person or through our databases, to find the perfect article to illustrate via diorama.

The goal was to share the joy of historical research with the community, and many of the contributors used the library's newspaper resources for the first time while searching for their articles. There were 69 submissions covering topics such as East Bay SPCA's 90th anniversary, the history of San Antonio Park, Krazy George's invention of the Wave, and Oakland's sideshows.

The Oakland History Center exhibited all 69 dioramas from August-November and 960 people visited the Main Library to view the exhibit-many staying afterward to ask their own questions about Oakland's history.

To celebrate the program, exhibit and winners, OHC hosted "The Celebration of Dioramas" on Oct. 4. Liam O'Donoghue, host of the East Bay Yesterday podcast, led Oakland diorama-themed trivia, and judges Alexis Madrigal, author and co-host of KQED Forum, and Dorothy Lazard, author and former Oakland History Center librarian, awarded prizes to the creators of their 10 favorite dioramas.

Special thanks to Kala Art Institute, FLAX Art & Design, East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse and Fenton's Creamery for donating prizes.



MOST SWEEPING REPRESENTATION OF A HISTORICAL EVENT

*Houdini Wins Liberty Head-Downward in Air*

Sarah Vyeda



MOST DETAILED RECONSTRUCTION OF A VERY SILLY THING + the People's Favorite!

*City's Nine Noisy Peacocks Are Sentenced to Life in Coop*

Christina Limata



MOST RELATABLE AND HUMAN

*Man Jailed Watching Meteors*

Adam Esposito

## HONORABLE MENTIONS

BEST DEPICTION OF EARLY OAKLAND ENTERTAINMENT

*A Chance to Brush Up on San Antonio Park History*

Samia Khattab

BEST DEPICTION OF ANIMAL BRAVERY

*Dog Rescues Youth From Shark Attack*

Jonathan & Santiago Lemon

BEST MINIMALIST INTERPRETATION OF THE DIORAMA CHALLENGE

*Found Some Silverware*

Caroline Haley & Derek Vogel

BEST MINIMALIST INTERPRETATION OF THE DIORAMA CHALLENGE

*Found Some Silverware*

Caroline Haley & Derek Vogel

MOST PERSISTENTLY HAUNTED HOUSE

*A Mystery Most Foul at Oakland's Clarke Mansion*

Courtney Minick

BEST DRUNK ANIMAL DIORAMA

*Seagulls Drunk on Seized Booze Dumped in Bay*

Hannah Jenks

BEST DEPICTION OF A NATURAL TREASURE SAVED BY WOMEN

*Why Save the Bay? -- And Why Not?*

Dianne Ayres

CRUSTIEST PUNK DIORAMA

*Yesterday's Crimes: Gilman Street Mummy Baby*

Alison Rose

## STAFF PRIZE

MOST DEVIOUSLY DELICIOUS DIORAMA

*Hey! Hey! Pickler in a Pickle Now Over Pickles*

Josephine Sayers

See the all of the Dioramas : [oaklandlibrary.org/diorama](http://oaklandlibrary.org/diorama)

# Celebrating Culture & Community: OPL's First Systemwide

## Hispanic Heritage Month



In 2025, Oakland Public Library proudly rolled out its first-ever systemwide celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

Celebrated every year from Sept 15 to Oct 15, Hispanic Heritage Month honors the histories, cultures and contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities in the United States, whose origins trace to Mexico, Spain, the Caribbean, Central and South America. Because these communities are diverse, the month also celebrates a wide range of traditions, languages and cultural expressions. This year, OPL branches offered creative programming that brought Oaklanders together to learn, connect and celebrate.

"While I have always known celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month was important, this year's acknowledgement of our shared and varied heritage felt even more crucial because of the current political climate," said Xóchitl Gavidia the César E Chávez branch manager. "According to the 2020 census, Hispanics are the largest ethnic/racial group in Oakland (29 percent) and it is time to celebrate their cultures, multi-identities and contributions to Oakland and society in a big, loud and fun way. So instead of a branch specific celebration, I reached out to other branch managers to see if anyone wanted to be a part of a larger systemwide celebration and it was a resounding yes."

To help promote the celebration across the system and citywide, OPL debuted a vibrant visual identity for its website, posters and social media that reflected communal pride and cultural history. Themed stickers inspired by Lotería, the traditional Mexican game of chance proved especially popular, with patrons and staff collecting them as keepsakes.

More than a dozen branches hosted hands-on art workshops led by local creatives. From printmaking sessions to craft-based activities, community members were invited to learn new techniques, explore heritage-inspired designs and create artwork.

Dance and music also played a major role in the celebration. Branches hosted performances and workshops across a range of styles, including folklórico and salsa.

There were also culinary and cooking workshops where patrons got hands-on learning about with food traditions such as Oaxacan red mole and Argentinian empanadas.

A standout event of the celebration was Lucha Libre en la Biblioteca, a wrestling-themed event that brought large crowds and high energy to the 81st Avenue Branch. Attendees cheered for masked wrestlers while learning about the sport's cultural significance and enjoying music and family-friendly entertainment. The event drew patrons from across the city and introduced many newcomers to OPL.

"We were concerned about low program attendance due to the fears of our patrons," Gavidia said. "However, Oaklanders did not disappoint and filled up the libraries! On our first day of programming, we had three large, potentially competing events, Lucha Libre at 81st Avenue Branch, Ballet Folklorico at the César E Chávez Branch and a community Tamalada at Melrose Branch; all were successful and had huge numbers of attendees. We needed to go big this year and the community agreed."

To add to the extensive programming, OPL staff created supplemental content for the website. Curated booklists highlight the diverse voices and experiences for all ages. Blog posts showcase the rich archival collections of the Oakland History Center and the Magazines & Newspapers Department, emphasizing how community newspapers and rare prints preserve overlooked voices and grassroots movements. Another, blog post spotlights powerful student-made posters from Mexico's 1968 uprising, underscoring the legacy of youth activism and the role of art in documenting resistance.

This content helped build excitement and added depth to the celebration, encouraging people to connect with not only events but with OPL's collections.

The success of this inaugural systemwide celebration reflects OPL's commitment to inclusivity and representation. The library looks forward to building on this foundation and continuing to honor the voices and traditions of Hispanic and Latino communities for years to come.

Learn more: [oaklandlibrary.org/hhm](http://oaklandlibrary.org/hhm)



This year, our Hispanic Heritage Month programming was intentionally designed not only to honor the month-long celebration, but also to raise visibility and increase foot traffic at our East Oakland branches. And it worked. The Lucha Libre event brought more than 100 people from across Oakland to the 81st Avenue Branch doors, many for the very first time, some wearing luchador masks as they arrived.

We gave away plenty of books that afternoon, but the event also highlighted something deeper that the library is so much more than books. We are a space for joy, culture, and connection. With East Oakland's strong Mexican and Latino roots, hosting Lucha Libre felt especially meaningful. It honored a beloved tradition while inviting everyone, across cultures and backgrounds, to share in the moment. Neighbors cheered together, laughed together, talked a little smack, and created an unforgettable afternoon that truly reflected our East Oakland community and the role the library plays in bringing people together.

- Isaiah Hurtado

Branch Manager  
81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Branch

# Financials

## 2024-2025 Expenditures by Fund Source

General Purpose Fund	\$ 8,096,850
Measure Q	\$ 23,639,155
Measure D	\$ 18,186,968
Measure KK Infrastructure Series 2020B-1	\$ 18,484
Measure KK Infrastructure Series 2022C-1	\$ 39,627
Capital Reserves	\$ 2,078
Federal/ State/ Local Grants*	\$ 3,435,824
OPL Trust Fund	\$ 130,331
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 53,549,317</b>

\* Includes Library Capital Org FY25 Actual Expenditures

## 2025 Expenditures by Category

Personnel	\$ 36,014,420
Operations & Maintenance	\$ 14,147,304
Books & Other Materials	\$ 3,387,593
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 53,549,317</b>

## IMPACT SNAPSHOT

## Your Library by the Numbers

### In 2025 OPL:

- Put **2 Million+** items into people's hands
- Welcomed **336,420** patrons through our doors
- Issued **29,226** new library cards
- Hosted **5,695** programs with **136,045** people attending

**We didn't just fill rooms – we filled feeds.**

Instagram	6,500
Facebook	12,000
X / Twitter	5,300
Threads	3,900
TikTok	2,100
YouTube	1,300
Bluesky	500

**Total online community** **41,600**  
followers & growing everyday

Get social with us **@Oaklibrary**

# **Friends of the Oakland Public Library**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ynez Arce  
Mifta Chowdhury  
Noah Cohen  
Erica Dennings  
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Jessica Meksavan  
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Glenn Poppe  
Kathryn Sterbenc  
Brad Thomas

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April Bell  
Mary Cain-Simon  
Gay Cobb  
Kevin Covarrubias  
Andrea Henderson  
Carolyn Jones

Anand Patel  
Justus Samuels  
Gabrielle Sloane Law  
Cristina Tostado  
Alex Weinberg  
Karen Zukor

# Supporters

The Oakland Public Library gratefully acknowledges the following organizations that supported specific library locations or projects between July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025. These contributions – made directly or through our nonprofit partner, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library – made possible a wide variety of library programs, services, and improvements.

American Library Association	The Bernard Osher Foundation
Amigos de la Biblioteca César E. Chávez	Friends of the Piedmont Avenue Library
Anonymous	Friends of the Temescal Branch Library
Herman Auerbach Memorial Fund Trust II	Friends-Stewards of the African American Museum & Library at Oakland
California State Library	William G. Gilmore Foundation
First 5 Alameda County	Hellman Foundation Fund
Friends of Dimond Library	Matson Foundation
Friends of Elmhurst Library	Pacific Library Partnership
Friends of Hoover Durant Public Library	The People-People-People Foundation
Friends of Lakeview Library	The Picsha Foundation
Friends of Melrose Library	RSM US Foundation
Friends of Montclair Library	Harry L. and Helen M. Rust Charitable Foundation
Friends of Rockridge Library	James D. Scheinfeld Family Foundation
Friends of the Asian Library	Sunlight Giving Foundation
Friends of the Golden Gate Library	The Judith and Robert C. Toll Fund
Friends of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Library	UC Berkeley
Friends of the Oakland History Center	Walk Oakland Bike Oakland
Friends of the Oakland Public Library	West Oakland Library Friends
Friends of the Oakland Tool Lending Library	Young Family Charitable Fund

# Administration

20 / 25

Jamie Turbak  
Library Director

Nina Lindsay  
Associate Director

Bamidele Agbasegbe-Demerson  
Chief Curator, AAMLO

Calvin Hao  
Project Manager

Derrick DeMay  
Supervising Librarian, Branches

Janelle Montu Veresa  
Fiscal Manager

Jenera Burton  
Supervising Librarian, Branches

Jiao Han  
Library IT and Technical Services Manager

Kere Gonzales  
Executive Assistant to the Director

Laura Liang  
Supervising Librarian, Children's Services

Mana Tominaga  
Supervising Librarian, Main Library

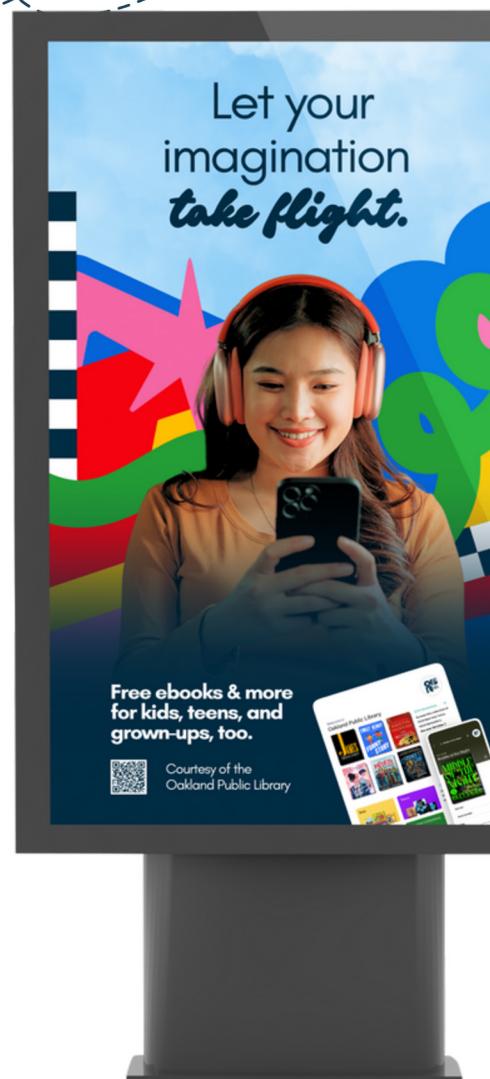
Sharon McKellar  
Supervising Librarian, Teen Services

Tabitha Pulliam  
Human Resources Manager

Tarshel Beards  
Community Relations Manager

Thanita Adams  
Safety Manager

# OPL takes *flight*



Graphic Design : Nikolitsa Paranoнос

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