

Santa Clara City Library
Board of Library Trustees
City Librarian Report - December 6, 2021

City Council has extended Boards and Commissions meetings in a virtual environment through March 2022.

Library Operations: Library leadership has been working to focus on additional service to include afternoon, evening and weekend hours. City leadership is in review of the proposal and an implementation plan.

Programming:

This September the Library launched a special series of outdoor, in-person pop-up storytimes. These were some of the first in-person events the Library has held in nearly two years due to COVID-19 related closures. Prior to this series, the Library offered virtual storytimes on a weekly basis.

Three pop-up storytimes were conducted at each Library location to engage and reconnect with the children and caregivers in the neighboring community. For the comfort and safety of participants, attendees were encouraged to bring blankets to socially distance and wear masks if over 2 years old. Families self-distanced and used blankets and mats to establish spaces between themselves and other participants. Librarians reinforced the importance of mask-wearing by incorporating their use in songs and stories. With the outdoor setting, a Fall storytime theme helped connect participants with their surroundings.

An average of over 100 children and adults attended each storytime. Parents and caregivers were extremely grateful to have this foundational early literacy program return in a safe manner, and library staff were excited to welcome the community back. Several families asked when in-person storytimes would be offered again as they were eager to return.

In addition to these programs, creating digital content, and providing customer service for library patrons, staff are assisting Santa Clara County with its COVID testing initiative and hosting Stanford Blood Center's mobile blood drive. The next COVID testing date at Central Park Library is Wednesday, December 8 from 9:30am until 3pm. COVID testing normally supports close to 500 individuals and the blood drive is often full to capacity. The Stanford Blood Mobile will be visiting the Northside Branch Library on December 20.

Outreach: The Library participated in the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony on December 3 with several other City Departments.

Grants development: First time grant writer Librarian Rachel Hughes secured funding from the Pacific Library Partnership for a 2021-22 PLP Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant. Checkout and Code kits will support our patrons' pursuit of learning how to code. Each Kit will contain a

Chromebook, mouse, bag, and detailed instructions and lessons for specific coding languages. All lessons will be completed online through the browser. Library Staff will create at least 10 different coding lesson plans in separate languages so that our patrons can choose whichever language they'd like to learn. This project will also provide opportunities for local teens to serve as volunteer resource specialists responsible for responding to patron questions and providing technical coding support.

Human Resources:

Filled positions: The Library is pleased to announce the selection of Lorena as Librarian I for Youth Services at Central Park Library. The position she leaves as Library Assistant will be filled with a candidate from an existing Library Assistant list. We are also pleased to announce the selection of Megan Tristao as Librarian in Adult Services where she has worked as an as-needed staff member.

Vacancies: There is a current 1.0 FTE Youth Services Librarian vacancy at the Mission Branch and a .50 FTE Youth Services librarian vacancy at Central Park. Recruitment for these two positions will begin shortly in December.