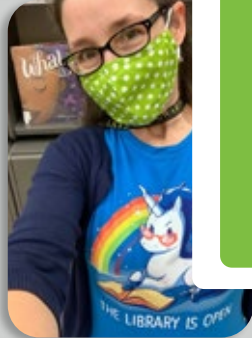




FY 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2020–2021

Sacramento Public Library is committed to finding innovative ways to adapt and meet the evolving needs of the community. Change was ever constant in Fiscal Year 20-21. Together, we faced a global crisis unlike any other and persisted through Northern California's volatile weather and fire season. The pandemic challenged us to rethink how we deliver on our promise to serve our community as we navigated constant change. The Library demonstrated its resiliency, creativity and flexibility throughout the pandemic even as local restrictions fluctuated.

HIGHLIGHTS



Reopening the Library

Despite a brief system shutdown in Spring 2020, the Library quickly developed a flexible reopening plan to meet federal, county and state guidelines and adjusted services based on changing directives. In May, the Library introduced curbside and personal shopper services to provide access to materials. A total of 14 locations reopened to the public in November 2020 only to be temporarily closed due to a County stay-at-home order. By February 2021, patrons could visit 20 locations. By mid-June, 21 locations had opened to the public at full capacity.

All the while, Library staff expanded virtual programs and services including mobile printing, computer appointments, storytime, book clubs and more. The Library and its volunteers also supported voting access during the 2020 presidential election by hosting ballot drop boxes and vote centers.

Investing in the future



The Library continually invests in its facilities to provide the community with dynamic and functional public spaces. Crews continued work on the \$950,000 renovation of the Orangevale Library to make the location ADA accessible and double its footprint from 7,910 square feet. In early 2021, Elk Grove City Council purchased a vacant Rite Aid building in Old Town Elk Grove. The expansive site will become the new home of the Elk Grove Library. The City, in partnership with Sacramento Public Library began design work for the relocation of the Elk Grove Library in Fall 2021.

Equity and accessibility



The pandemic amplified the inequities in the communities we serve. The Library provided a temporary respite for some of the most vulnerable populations in the area as they faced extreme temperatures and poor air quality due to wildfire season.

In March 2020, the Library temporarily suspended overdue fines to increase library access during the pandemic. The Library Authority board unanimously voted to permanently end fines on overdue materials in June 2021, permanently removing those barriers to accessing library resources.

The Library helped bring internet services at no cost to eligible residents through the City of Sacramento's Digital Equity Response Program. More than 525 hotspots with one year of free Wi-Fi service were distributed to City of Sacramento households and community-based organizations. Devices were also available for checkout from Lucky Day collections at City of Sacramento locations.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Increasing Early Learning Services

In October 2020 the Library formed an Early Learning and Development department to support the community's youngest readers ages 0 to 5. The team quickly introduced online programs, community pop-ups and in-branch activities. Virtual early learning programming was offered five days a week with new content types added including Virtual Sensory Storytime and Instagram Baby Storytime. In the spring, the team hosted 21 Storytime to Go pop-up programs, the Library's first in-person events since the pandemic began. Storytime to Go packs in



English and Spanish were distributed at library locations and pop-up programs to support early learning at home.

The Library partnered with the Sacramento County Office of Education to offer five virtual early learning workshops in June 2020 for child care providers, parents and caregivers. The workshops focused on developing early learning skills to support dual language learners and were offered in English and Spanish with translations in Russian, Chinese, and Dari.



4,000

STORYTIME
TO GO PACKS



442

VIRTUAL EARLY
LEARNING PROGRAMS



21

STORYTIME
TO GO POP-UPS



560

STORYTIME
POP-UP ATTENDEES

Supporting and Engaging Teens and Tweens

Supporting teen mental health was a primary concern in our community. Youth services staff developed a range of virtual programs to provide social-emotional learning experiences and connect with teens. Librarians adapted teen volunteer opportunities, convened teen advisory boards and continued popular programs in Zoom. Every Friday afternoon virtual programming provided teens with much-needed space to connect through trivia events and teen and tween book clubs. In addition,



the Library engaged local teens to take over the Library's Instagram channel with their original content focused on the theme "What Makes Me Strong." Teens advocated for, planned and implemented Homework Help to support Kindergarten through 8th grade students. Homework coaches welcomed 94 total students and 85% of students returned for additional homework help sessions after their first visit.



489

VIRTUAL TEEN
PROGRAM ATTENDEES



42

VIRTUAL HOMEWORK
HELP SESSIONS



338

VIRTUAL HOMEWORK
ZONE VISITS



31

TEEN VOLUNTEERS



823

HOMEWORK COACH
VOLUNTEER HOURS



7

COMMUNITY
CONVERSATIONS



85

ENGLISH CONVERSATION
ATTENDEES

"By volunteering weekly, I have learned so much about tutoring and how to be there for these children. I have seen first-hand some of the negative effects that distance learning is having on children both academically and socially. My hope is that they can return to school, if only to interact with their friends again so they have people to talk to outside of the Homework Zone coaches."

- Virtual Homework Zone Coach

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Serving Adults

In 2020, the Library partnered with the Sacramento County Registrar for the sixth year to support the elections and protect the integrity of the process in the spring and fall. All library locations hosted a ballot box for the public during regular business hours, which were monitored by volunteers at all times. Volunteers logged more than 3,800 hours into the election effort. During the four days leading up to Election Day, 11 branches hosted Vote Centers. Voters turned out in record numbers in November 2020 and library locations accounted for 22% of the total drop-off ballots collected in Sacramento County.



The Library launched a Family Literacy program and served adult learners and their 122 children. Families were mailed age-appropriate books with adult learner materials and activities. Adult literacy moved to virtual tutoring sessions and virtual learner assessments. To facilitate the transition online, the Library lent Chromebooks to adult learners, communicated via email and text, and provided on-demand support for tutors through



the national database of lesson plans.

Mobile Services helped bridge the gap between library services and community members. The team continued to expand its routes and added a bi-weekly stop to Vineyard Point Apartments, a developing community with limited public transportation where the nearest library location is located 15 minutes away by car. While the Orangevale Library was closed for renovations, Mobile Services worked with the Orangevale Recreation & Park District to make weekly summer stops at the Orangevale Community Center to provide patrons with materials. Mobile Services also joined the Midtown Business Association's monthly Fresh Air event series in Fremont Park to promote free health and wellness resources in the community.

The Library engaged in various health literacy initiatives to share health information that focused on the heart-mind connection, self-care for the caregiver, fitness and veterans.



3,800

VOLUNTEER HOURS
DURING THE 2020 ELECTION



111

ADULT LITERACY
PROGRAMS



126

ADULT LEARNERS
VOLUNTEERS



800

VIRTUAL ZUMBA
ATTENDEES



160

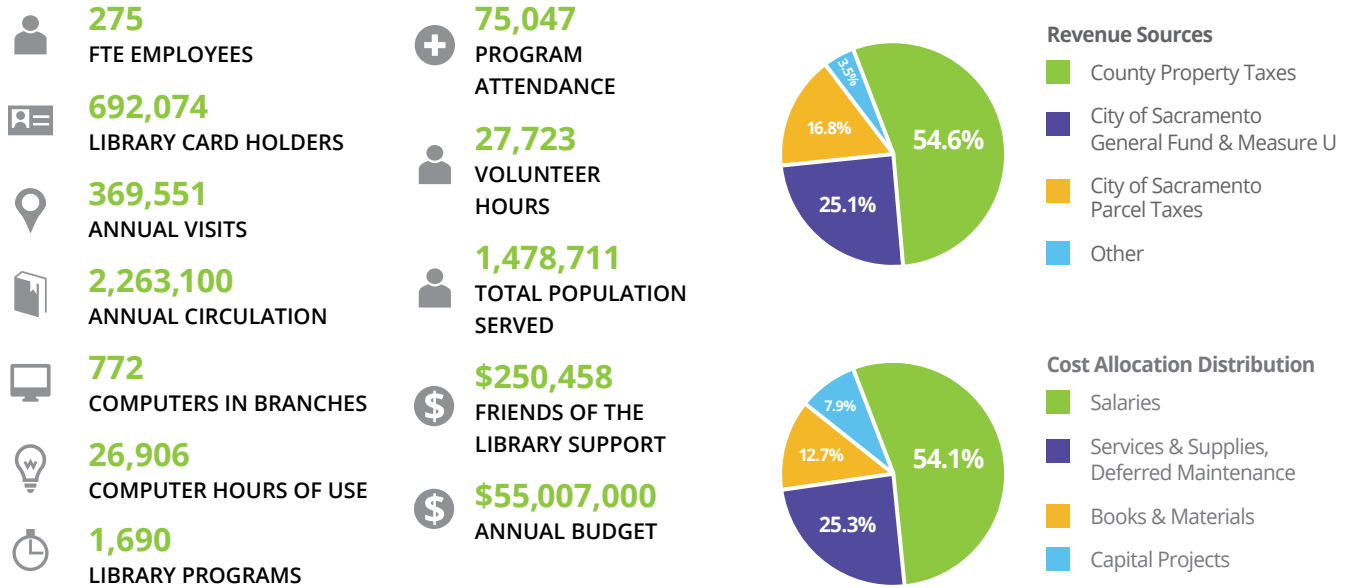
SENIOR HEALTH
KITS DISTRIBUTED



160

FAMILY HEALTH
KITS DISTRIBUTED

LIBRARY AT A GLANCE FY 2020-2021



RECOGNITION

- **Addie Estrada-Huerta**, 2021 I Love My Librarian Award, American Library Association
- **Sacramento Public Library**, 2021 Library of the Year Honorable Mention, Gale Cengage and Library Journal
- **Sacramento Public Library**, 2021 Librarian at Your Service Award, Unique Management

Friends of the Sacramento Public Library

The Friends of Sacramento Public Library are the Library's official and only fundraising partner, designated by our Library Authority Board in 2019* and tireless library advocates in the community. In 2014 and 2016, the Friends supported the passage of two successful City of Sacramento ballot measures to provide funding for the system.

Collectively, the Friends provide thousands of hours of volunteer time for the Library. They support our democracy during elections by staffing ballot drop boxes and sustaining the planet by finding new homes for books through Book Den sales. The Friends also provide valuable support through their

sponsorship of events with authors such as Temple Grandin, and so much more.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Friends have stood by the Library. In 2020, the Friends raised \$82,837 through their Big Day of Giving appeal to support the fifth year of our Book First program. Their support makes it possible for the Library to provide two books to every first-grade student at 171 eligible schools throughout Sacramento County. And despite not being able to volunteer in person, Friends volunteers assembled 14,000 student packs from their homes in December 2020.



*Sacramento Public Library and the Sacramento Literacy Foundation, formerly Sacramento Public Library Foundation, mutually agreed to part ways in 2021 and are no longer affiliated in any way.