



# CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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December 12, 2024 at 4:00 PM

**Council Chambers: 201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025**

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## WELCOME TO YOUR BOARD MEETING

We welcome your interest and involvement in the legislative process of Escondido. This agenda includes information about topics coming before the board.

### PRESIDENT

Virginia Bunnell

### SECRETARY

Francis X. Bova III

### TRUSTEES

John Schwab

Carolyn Clemens

Maribel Reyes

### ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

Sarena Garcia

### HOW TO WATCH

The City of Escondido provides one way to watch a board meeting:

#### In Person



201 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025



# CITY of ESCONDIDO

## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The City of Escondido provides two ways to communicate with the board during a meeting:

#### In Person



Fill out Speaker Slip and Submit to City Clerk

#### In Writing



<https://escondido-ca.municodemeetings.com>

### ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact our ADA Coordinator at 760-839-4869. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the city to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired – please see the City Clerk.



### ROLL CALL

### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [1.](#) Review and Approve the minutes from the November 14, 2024 meeting

### CURRENT BUSINESS

- [2.](#) **Building Forward: Library Infrastructure Grant Project**

Monthly progress update on the \$10 million library infrastructure state-grant project. An updated schedule for the project (attached) will be presented for review.

Presenter(s): Robert Rhoades, Assistant Director of Community Services

- [3.](#) **Policy Review & Update: Collection Development**

Review and vote on a state-mandated update to the library's Collection Development Policy to align with the California Freedom to Read Act.

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director



# CITY of ESCONDIDO

## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024

### STATISTICS REPORT

#### 4. **Statistics Report**

Presentation of monthly statistical reports and strategic plan updates.

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

#### 5. **Director's Report**

Presentation of monthly report and general library updates.

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

### TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

6. Reports by the Library Board of Trustees of their use of the library and its services.

### ADJOURNMENT

### UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

7. Unless otherwise noted, the Library Board of Trustees meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

**1/9/2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

2/6/2025 AT 4:00 p.m.

3/13/2025 at 4:00 p.m.

**4/10/2025 at 6:00 p.m.**



# CITY of ESCONDIDO

## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM

### MINUTES

#### ROLL CALL

#### PRESENT

Secretary Francis X. Bova III  
Trustee Carolyn Clemens  
Trustee John Schwab  
Trustee Maribel Reyes - arrived at 4:03 p.m.

#### ABSENT

President Virginia Bunnell

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**1. Review and Approve the minutes from the October 10, 2024 meeting**

Motion made by Trustee Clemens  
Seconded by Trustee Schwab  
Approved 3-0 (Bunnell, Reyes - Absent)

#### CURRENT BUSINESS

**2. Public Art - Library Mural**

Presentation and update on the exterior mural project (at the corner of 2nd Ave and Kalmia St) funded by the Escondido Community Foundation.

Presenter(s): Tim Topalov (artist) and the Escondido Community Foundation  
Presentation by Lisa Ruder of the Escondido Community Foundation

Motion to recommend approval of the mural to the Public Art Commission

Motion made by Trustee Clemens  
Seconded by Trustee Schwab  
Approved 4-0



# CITY of ESCONDIDO

## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

November 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM

### 3. Building Forward: Library Infrastructure Grant Project

Monthly progress update on the \$10 million library infrastructure state-grant project.

Presenter(s): Robert Rhoades, Assistant Director of Community Services

### 4. Workshop Report & Discussion

Report on the October 25, 2024, Library Board of Trustees workshop held at the library to discuss the costs related to the library infrastructure grant project that are not covered by grant funds.

Presenters(s): Francis X. Bova III, Secretary, Library Board of Trustees; John Schwab, Board Member

Secretary Bova provided an update

### 5. Library Annual Report FY2023-2024

Presentation of the library's annual report to the Board of Trustees.

Presenters(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

### STATISTICS REPORT

- 6. Presentation of monthly statistical report and strategic plan updates.

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 7. Presentation of monthly report and general library updates.

### TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

- 8. Reports by the Library Board of Trustees of their use of the library and its services.

Trustee Reyes checked out home improvement books and will attend drop in genealogy workshop

Trustee Schwab shared about the Friends of the Library bookstore's anonymous donor

Secretary Bova attended a workshop and dropped off ballot

Trustee Clemens visited the ofrenda for Dios De Los Muertos and dropped off ballot



# CITY of ESCONDIDO

## LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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November 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM

### ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 5:19 p.m

### UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

9. Unless otherwise noted, the Library Board of Trustees meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.  
12/12/2024 at 4:00 p.m.  
1/9/2025 at **6:00 p.m.**  
2/6/2025 AT 4:00 p.m.

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PRESIDENT

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ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

**City of Escondido Library Infrastructure Project  
Anticipated Project Schedule**



<b>Project Tasks</b>	<b>Anticipated Completion</b>
Interior finishes and 100% DD City sign off Completion	09/20/2024
Commencement of CD Phase	09/23/2024
Design Progress Check-in Meeting	10/09/2024
50% CD Submittal	10/18/2024
50% CD City/Griffin Review	10/25/2024
50% CD City/Griffin comments discussion	10/25/2024
Design Progress Meeting	11/08/2024
Presentation of 80% CD Submittal Package including Cost Estimate	11/22/2024
City/Griffin Review of 80% CD package	12/04/2024
Design Progress Meeting proposed	12/06/2024
Incorporate City/Griffin and City comments	12/11/2024
Submit 100% CD's for Plan Check	12/13/2024
Plan Check Review & Comments	01/03/2025
Incorporate Plan Check changes & submit for construction permitting	01/13/2025
Construction Permitting Process	01/27/2025
Bidding	February 2025
Bid Evaluations and recommendations for Contract award to City Council	March 2025
City Council Meeting	April 2025
Award Construction Contract	April 2025
Contractor Mobilization Period (30-40 Days)	May 2025
City move management & vacate library	April 2025
Construction (approx.10 months)	February 2026



239 South Kalmia Street,  
Escondido, CA 92025  
760.839.5440

[www.escondidolibrary.org](http://www.escondidolibrary.org)

# STAFF REPORT: Collection Development Policy Update

## RECOMMENDATION

The Library Board of Trustees is requested to approve changes to the Library Collection Development Policy to align with state legal requirements and language provided by the California State Library.

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

This change will not impact the library’s budget.

## BACKGROUND

On September 29th, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the California Freedom to Read Act (AB 1825, Muratsuchi) into law. The California Freedom to Read Act helps communities ensure their local libraries are reflective of that community’s diversity. The new law creates a variety of benchmarks for communities to use in determining what materials libraries make available.

One of the law’s requirements is that the “collection development plans” libraries use to help make these determinations must be sent to the State Librarian.

Collection development plans are formal policies that guide the selection of library materials and establish a process for community members to contribute. Libraries use them to establish clear standards about what types of materials they plan to make available and communicate those values to their local communities. These documents are formal policies that guide the selection of library materials and establish a process for community members to contribute.

For more information, read the text of the California Freedom to Read Act on the [Legislature’s website](#).

The state library created a checklist for libraries to use in updating their policies. This checklist and a legal review by the City of Escondido informed the recommended changes to this policy.





## POLICY: COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

*Approved by the Escondido Public Library Board of Trustees May 9, 2024*

### PURPOSE & SCOPE

The Collection Development Policy guides the selection and evaluation of materials and resources that meet the current and anticipated needs of Escondido's community.

The primary responsibility of Escondido Public Library is to serve the citizens of Escondido by providing a broad choice of materials to meet their informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs. **The public library serves as a center for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas.** Materials are selected to aid individuals, groups, and organizations in attaining practical solutions to daily problems and enriching the quality of life for all community members. **The collection meets the broad and diverse interests of the community and respects both the library's autonomy and their specific community needs.**

Public libraries' standards nationwide, budget parameters and space availability influence the Library's policy. Access to specialized and comprehensive collections that exist elsewhere in the greater San Diego area may be provided through interlibrary loan and direct referral.

**Library materials should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people, and should present diverse points of view in the collection as a whole.** The Escondido Public Library offers a broad choice of circulating print and non-print materials that are selected to accommodate the diversity of tastes, reading levels, languages, and interests of users of all ages. These items come in a variety of formats, such as, but not limited to: traditional print, large print, audiobooks, eBooks, on-line resources and e-Audiobooks. The Library's local history archive, the Pioneer Room, provides a non-circulating collection of materials relating to the history of Escondido.

### PHILOSOPHY OF SELECTION

In support of its mission, Escondido Public Library fully endorses the principles documented in the *Library Bill of Rights*, *Freedom to Read* and *Freedom to View* statements of the American Library Association. These three documents can be accessed online through the following links:

- <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill>
- <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomreadstatement>
- <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/statementspols/freedomviewstatement>

The Library upholds the **right of the public to receive access to a range of social, political, aesthetic, moral, and other ideas and experiences.** As such, individuals have the right to secure information even though the content may be controversial, unorthodox, or unacceptable to others. Race, nationality, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and political/social view will not be used as criteria for exclusion of materials. Materials available in the Library present **diverse** viewpoints, enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy.

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### RESPONSIBILITY FOR SELECTION

Under the general supervision of the Library Director, **library staff** are responsible for the collection development process. They work closely with the LS&S Centralized Collection Development staff to identify titles for acquisition. eMaterials, periodicals, and Pioneer Room materials are acquired completely by local Library staff. All

library staff and members of the public are encouraged to recommend titles for purchase. Those recommendations will be evaluated using the same selection criteria as general purchases. An electronic resources committee recommends resources for purchase.

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## SELECTION CRITERIA

All materials, whether purchased or donated, are considered in terms of the criteria listed below. An item need not meet all of these standards in order to be added to the collection.

- Popular interest
- Contemporary significance or permanent value
- Currency of information or format
- Representation of diverse points of view
- Relationship to existing materials in the collection
- Readability or ability to sustain interest
- Appropriateness of subject to the age and/or level of the intended audience
- Reputation of the author, publisher, producer, illustrator, or artist
- Creative, literary, or technical quality
- Physical condition
- Accuracy and authentication
- Critical assessments in a variety of professional journals and attention in media
- Circulation as monitored through the Library's ILS
- Cost and availability
- Relationship to materials in other area libraries
- Local emphasis
- Multiple copies of materials are purchased in response to user demand as evidenced by the number of holds, anticipated popularity, and monitoring of the collection.

\* [The Pioneer Room Collection Development Policy provides selection criteria for the library's local history archive.](#)

## WEBSITE CONTENT

Through its website, Escondido Public Library directs users to informational resources on the Internet that complement, enhance, and sometimes parallel, resources housed in the Library collection.

- **Scope and Breadth** – A limited number of links are made to internet sites based on the informational needs of the community, areas of emphasis in the collection, and local areas of interest. A particular emphasis is made on selecting sites created by governmental, educational, and non-profit entities. Links may also be made to sites created by for-profit organizations when they meet selection criteria and informational needs.
- **Selection Criteria** – Criteria for selecting sites include authority, coverage, accuracy and relevance, quality of information, organization, currency, and ease of use. Links to sites are made selectively based on the scope of the Library's website and will be deleted or removed when they are outdated or superseded by newly identified sites.

## PURCHASE SUGGESTIONS

The Library strongly encourages input from the community concerning the collection. A suggestion procedure enables Library patrons to request that a particular item be purchased. All suggestions for purchase are subject to the same selection criteria as other materials and are not automatically added to the collection. Purchase suggestions help the Library develop collections which serve the interests and needs of the community. Suggestions are made online through the Library's website. Suggestions for items that have not yet been published will not be accepted.

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Escondido Public Library accepts gifts for the collection that fall within needed subject categories as determined by the Library Director or designee and the staff. Gift additions must meet the same selection criteria as purchased materials and are subject to the following limitations:

- Donations accepted by Escondido Public Library are considered the property of the City of Escondido;
- The Library makes the final decision on the use or other disposition of the gift and determines the conditions of display, housing, and access to the materials;
- The Library reserves the right to refuse an offered donation. All donated materials must be in good condition and free of dirt, mold, moisture, and pests;
- Donations to the Pioneer Room require a completed Escondido Public Library Deed of Gift form available from Pioneer Room or Library Administration staff;
- Monetary gifts to the collection are always welcome and may be designated as memorials; and
- Monetary donations are accepted in lieu of newspapers and magazine subscriptions.

## COLLECTION MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the Library's collection through constant re-evaluation by Library staff ensures its usefulness and relevancy to the community. This evaluation depends on the staff's professional expertise in assessing the needs of the community and the content of the collection. Materials that are outdated, have had little use, or are in poor physical condition are considered for withdrawal from the collection.

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## DESELECTING LIBRARY MATERIALS

Library materials are deselected (often referred to as "weeded") for one or more of the following reasons:

- Availability of information locally or digitally
- Duplication
- Subject matter is no longer timely, accurate, or relevant
- Damage or poor condition
- Insufficient use
- Research value
- Preservation and storage costs

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## REPLACEMENT

Replacement of deselected materials is not automatic. Library staff assess the need for replacing materials that are damaged, deselected, or otherwise lost. The decision to replace is influenced by:

- Availability of copies through other libraries
- Popular interest
- Adequacy of coverage in the subject area
- Significance in subject area
- Cost and availability to purchase

## REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Library patrons who recommend the review of appropriateness or removal of a particular item in the Library collection may request and submit a *Statement of Concern about Library Resources* form available on the [Library's website](#) or in print at a library service desk. Print forms can be mailed or returned to the library to the attention of the Library Director. The form will be reviewed by the Library Director or designee and staff in relation to the Library's mission, vision, and values, and the selection criteria in this *Collection Development Policy*. An evaluation of review materials submitted by the patron and staff will be made in accordance with the *Reconsideration of Library Materials Policy* which is listed below and can be viewed on the [Library's website](#). A response will be made by the Library Director or designee within 21 days of receiving the [statement of concern](#).

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## RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY MATERIALS POLICY

Recognizing the importance of intellectual freedom, the Escondido Public Library Board of Trustees fully supports the American Library Association's *Library Bill of Rights* and the Association's *Freedom to Read* and *Freedom to View Statements* and has adopted them as official Library policy.

Reading is a private activity, and individuals must examine materials as to suitability for their own purposes and make their own decisions to read or not to read particular items.

As part of its mission to provide ready access to the wide diversity of ideas and information, the Library strives to collect materials that provide a variety of viewpoints on issues and subjects. It recognizes that some of these may be controversial and that any given item may offend some members of the community. Selection of materials is not made on the basis of anticipated approval or disapproval, but on the basis of the principles and guidelines stated in the *Collection Development Policy*. Likewise, the library will not eliminate items purchased under due consideration solely because they displease a particular individual or group.

Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of their contents, and no library materials will be sequestered, except to protect it from physical damage or theft.

Responsibility for the reading of children rests with their parents or legal guardians. Selection of library materials will not be inhibited by the possibility that books may come into the possession of children, and only parents may restrict access for their own children.

The Escondido Public Library welcomes suggestions for purchase and will research and consider any such suggestion. Purchase suggestions can be made online [on the library website](#).

Patrons may raise an objection to an item in the library's collection. If a complaint cannot be resolved informally, after the complainant has talked with a librarian and has seen the *Collection Development Policy*, the following procedure will be used to consider the opinions of those persons in the community who are not directly involved in the selection process.

1. The Library's department heads and administrators will assist patrons in accessing the *Statement of Concern About Library Resources* [online or in print](#).

2. The Library Director or designee shall review the submitted form with the Library's management staff for reevaluation of the material in question. The management staff shall recommend disposition to the Library Director or designee within 30 days.
3. The challenged material will not be restricted during the reconsideration process.
4. The management staff will have an initial meeting to:
  - Review copies of the completed *Statement of Concern About Library Materials* form.
  - Review copies of the challenged material, as available.
  - The management staff will make its recommendation and draft a response with the Library Director who will review it and send it to the complainant.
5. If not satisfied with the decision, the complainant may appeal to the Escondido Public Library Board of Trustees, which has the authority to elevate the decision to the Escondido City Council.
6. An item that has been challenged and reviewed through this procedure, will not be reviewed again for 12 months.

#### REVISION OF POLICY

This *Collection Development Policy* will be periodically evaluated by the Library Director or designee and staff. Revision occurs to maintain a timely and relevant policy. The *Collection Development Policy* must be approved by the Library Board of Trustees in order to be adopted.

*Revision History: August 11, 2022; May 9, 2024*

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*Approved by the Escondido Public Library Board of Trustees August 11, 2022*

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\* For selection criteria relating to the Pioneer Room, the Library's local history archive, see the Pioneer Room Collection Development Policy.

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REVISION OF POLICY

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*Revision History: Updated, August 11, 2022.*

## California Freedom to Read Act Process and Checklist

To help libraries be compliant with the California Freedom to Read Act, the State Library will review collection development policies following this process and checklist:

1. Review the collection development policy from a library in accordance with the checklist and verify the following statements are true:
  - The library posted their collection development policy on their public website.
  - The policy establishes a process for community members to share their concerns regarding library materials and to request that library materials be reconsidered for inclusion in the library's collection.
  - The policy guides the selection and deselection of materials.
  - The policy contains the following statements:
    - The "collection meets the broad and diverse interests of the community and respects both the library's autonomy and their specific community needs."
    - The "public library serves as a center for voluntary inquiry and the dissemination of information and ideas."
    - "Library materials should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people, and should present diverse points of view in the collection as a whole."
    - The "right of the public to receive access to a range of social, political, aesthetic, moral, and other ideas and experiences" is acknowledged.
2. If the policy meets all the requirements on the checklist:
  - a. Update the tracking spreadsheet to show that the library is fully compliant.
  - b. Notify the library that their policy is compliant.
3. If the policy does not meet the requirements on the checklist:
  - a. Return the policy to the library,
  - b. Indicate to the library what is missing,
  - c. Provide additional technical assistance as needed.



STATISTICS REPORT

Monthly Library Board of Trustees Statistics 2024-2025		August	September	October
<b>CIRCULATION:</b>	Physical Materials (Books, media, museum passes, laptops)	46,212	40,626	43,237
	eMaterial (includes eBooks and eAudiobooks-OverDrive, CloudLibrary, Biblioboard, eMagazines (Flipster), and Hoopla digital media.	8,070	6,363	6,862
	Total Circulation	54,282	46,989	50,099
	Holds Satisfied	2,496	2,328	2,615
<b>INTER-LIBRARY LOANS:</b>	ILLs Checked Out	2	4	2
	Link+ Items Borrowed (EPL patrons)	351	366	355
	Link+ Items Lent (to patrons at other libraries)	338	315	378
<b>POPULATION &amp; BORROWERS:</b>	Total Registered Borrowers	90,781	91,341	92,037
<b>REFERENCE QUESTIONS:</b>	Total Reference Transactions	6,912	5,907	6,777
<b>LIBRARY SERVICES:</b>	Public Service Hours	269	249	273
	Library Visits	26,592	25,412	26,778
<b>ELECTRONIC SERVICES:</b>	Users of Public Internet Computers	2,797	2,291	2,439
	Wireless Sessions	11,236	11,256	12,402
	Number of Website Visits	5,500	5,400	5,000
<b>VOLUNTEERS:</b>	Total Active Volunteers	137	113	119
	Total Volunteer Hours	926	840	905
<b>PROGRAMS:</b>	# of live, in-person programs	72	121	151
	Live, in-person attendance	1270	2024	2405
	# of live, virtual programs	0	0	0
	Live, virtual program attendance	0	0	0
	# of pre-recorded programs	0	0	0
	# of views of recorded program content	0	0	0
	# of live, off site programs (outreach)	5	6	4
	Live, off site program (outreach) attendance	693	1145	257
	# of take home kits given out	80	80	80





STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES REPORT

**4. EPL will make the best use of resources by operating efficiently and will be a good neighbor and community member.**

EPL will make the best use of resources by operating efficiently and will be a good neighbor and community member.

Strategy	Objective	Timeline	Updates (August-November)
<b>Reduce waste</b>	Review and suggest best practices by scheduling two meetings per year with the City Recycling Division to review and suggest best practices.	FY 2024–2027	Outreach to City Recycling is needed for 2025 plans/classes. Dependent on temporary location during library closure due to infrastructure grant.
	Continue to ensure proper disposal by verifying the reuse and recycling of materials that have been withdrawn from the collection and technology that has reached end-of-life.	FY 2024–2027	Continue to resell or recycle weeded books. Technology plan discussions are early, and library staff are working with City IS on this project.
	Educate residents about responsible consumption by partnering with the City Recycling Division to offer two Library programs such as composting.	FY 2025–2027	Outreach to City Recycling is needed for 2025 plans/classes. Dependent on temporary location during library closure due to infrastructure grant.
	Shorten travel distance and reach a larger audience by providing programs in three different spaces throughout the service area.	FY 2025–2027	Youth and Teen Services staff continue to host off-site outreach events. Adult Services staff plan to reach senior centers and assisted living facilities in 2025.
<b>Encourage healthy living</b>	Increase awareness by offering resources for home gardening, such as a seed or succulent swap, and three programs on organic gardening, etc.	FY 2025–2027	Sustainable Fashion program in September. Bi-monthly meditation and wellness programs.
<b>Encourage wellness</b>	Provide alternatives to screen time for children and tweens by offering four non-screen-focused programs.	FY 2024–2027	Daily storytimes continue to expand and offer non-screen-focused programs for children of all ages. An emphasis on incorporating play with the support of the California Play for All grant began in late October.





	Support mindfulness by inviting a local yoga studio to offer one series of free classes.	FY 2025–2027	Monthly mindfulness and meditation classes continue.
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LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Update: Hoopla**

Staff have reported patron dissatisfaction with Hoopla, following our restrictions on monthly checkouts and daily spending caps. We have requested a detailed report from Hoopla to evaluate what further changes we recommend to address or alleviate patron issues.

About 10-20 checkouts are possible each day, with the total number of Hoopla checkouts averaging about 500-600 per month. The biggest impact has been the daily cap, which results in the day's checkouts being done within an hour of the new day.

Staff have suggested limiting Hoopla by format and/or cost per item. By removing audiobooks from Hoopla, the most popular format, the service would likely be able to accommodate the remaining demand for eBooks, comics, and videos. Increased audiobook spending in Overdrive Libby would attempt to compensate for Hoopla audiobooks' loss.

**Play for All Grant**

The majority of furniture and accessory deliveries are expected by the middle of December. Installation is planned by the end of the month. A soft opening before the Christmas holiday is anticipated, with a grand space opening in January.

**Staff Updates**

We are happy to announce the hire of a new Library Associate 2 (FT), Olga Tenyakova, who will join the Youth Services team starting December 9<sup>th</sup>. Olga has been a library volunteer and brings experience as a children's book illustrator, along with a passion for working with children.

The Pioneer Room will be growing with a new full-time Library Associate 2 to support our Archivist and public services. The position is live and accepting applicants. A hire start date of January 2025 is expected.

Roberta Brenner retired from the library after 30 years of service to Escondido on Friday, December 7.







ADULT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



**November 9, 2024: 2nd Saturday Concert – Mountain Sam Wheelock**

The library proudly hosted Appalachian musician Mountain Sam Wheelock, who presented his one-man show, "A Story and a Song." This performance, blending eclectic roots music with personal memoir, offered a heartfelt exploration of Appalachian culture and heritage. Through storytelling and song, Sam captivated an audience of **34 in-person attendees**, with an additional **9 tuning in via Facebook**. Feedback was positive, with attendees expressing enjoyment and an interest in future rock music events.

**November 16, 2024: Native American Dance and Cultural Celebration**

As part of Native American Heritage Month, the library welcomed the Eagle Spirit Dancers, a Navajo troupe led by Benjamin Hale. Through vibrant singing and dancing, the group shared their rich cultural traditions with approximately **70 patrons of all ages**. A highlight of the event was an interactive circle dance, allowing attendees to participate actively in the experience. Patrons praised the program for its engaging presentation and cultural depth, with many requesting additional cultural events in the future.

**November 25, 2024: Weaving Heritage: Native American Basket Weaving**

In collaboration with the Wa\$xayam Pomki Museum, representing the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, the library hosted a basket weaving workshop for all ages. Participants learned about the cultural significance of basket weaving in Luiseño communities while creating round reed-style baskets. The event drew **37 attendees**, many of whom completed their baskets during the workshop or took materials home to continue their projects. Patrons appreciated the creativity and cultural insight offered by the program, and plans are underway to invite the museum back for future workshops.

PIONEER ROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Successfully published the [Arlene Shuster Collection](#) to the CONTENTdm digital platform, expanding access to local historical resources.





Uploaded a new instructional video to the Beginning Genealogy Series on YouTube, titled [Creating a Good Research Question](#), to support genealogy enthusiasts in their research efforts.

Applied for inclusion in ArchiveGrid, OCLC's comprehensive database of over 7 million records describing archival materials, to enhance the visibility and accessibility of our archival collections.

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## YOUTH SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



### November 2, 2024: Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration

Youth Services hosted the annual Día de los Muertos celebration, drawing an impressive turnout of **93 attendees**. The event featured a captivating performance by the local Ballet Folklórico group *Tradición Folklórica Mexicana USA*, who showcased a vibrant array of traditional Mexican dances. Families participated in various engaging activities, including storytelling, singing, and hands-on crafts, such as creating calavera masks, *alebrijes* (imaginative brightly colored creatures), and tissue paper flowers. Additional highlights included face painting and a selection of festive treats, including *pan de muerto*, fruit, and sweets.

### Community Ofrenda Alter

A community altar (*ofrenda*) in the library's front lobby displayed tributes from **180 community members**, offering a beautiful and heartfelt way to honor loved ones. This celebration provided a meaningful cultural experience and fostered a strong community connection.

Looking ahead, Youth Services has a robust slate of special programs planned for December, including visits from Santa. These events will be featured in the January report. Regular programming, such as storytimes and reading to animals, continued to be well-received throughout November.