



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

April 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Council Chambers: 201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025

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, APRIL 10, 2025

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 March 13, 2025 meeting

CURRENT BUSINESS

2. **Update on the Temporary Relocation of Escondido City Library**

A presentation updating the Library Board of Trustees on the Temporary Relocation of Escondido City Library

Presenter(s): Francisco Vargas, Management Analyst- Real Property

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



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025

4. Authorization to Use Library Trust Funds for Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) for Library Infrastructure Project

Request the Library Board of Trustees vote to approve the use of \$260,000 from the Library Trust to fund the purchase of FF&E for the first floor of the Library Infrastructure Project.

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director; Robert Rhoades, Assistant Director of Community Services

STATISTICS REPORT

5. Statistics Reports

Presentation of monthly statistical report and strategic plan updates.

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. Director's Report

Presentation of monthly report and general library updates.

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

7. Reports by Board members

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

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

8. 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.

5/8/2025 at 4:00 p.m.



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 13, 2025 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

President Virginia Bunnell
Secretary Francis X. Bova III
Trustee Carolyn Clemens
Trustee John Schwab
Trustee Maribel Reyes

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review and Approve the minutes from the February 13, 2025 meeting

Motion made by Trustee Clemens
Seconded by Trustee Reyes
Approved 5-0

CURRENT BUSINESS

2. Update on the Temporary Relocation of Escondido City Library

Request the Library Board of Trustees receive and file a presentation updating the Library Board of Trustees on the Temporary Relocation of Escondido City Library

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Economic Development: Jennifer Schoeneck, Director of Economic Development)

Presenter: Francisco Vargas, Management Analyst- Real Property

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



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 13, 2025 at 4:00 PM

4. Hoopla Digital Service Access: Update and Discussion

A presentation updating the Library Board of Trustees on the implementation of access limits to the Hoopla digital service to Escondido residents, workers, and students. A discussion by the Board of Trustees on next steps to follow the presentation.

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

Direction provided to keep current services in place and gather additional data and place on April 10, 2025 meeting

STATISTICS REPORT

5. Presentation of monthly statistical report and strategic plan updates

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. Presentation of monthly report and general library updates

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

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

Trustee Clemens - Visited library during Drum event and noticed everyone was having a good time; checked out books on raising chickens

Secretary Bova - Attended Monday and Thursday classes

President Bunnell - Went to Bio Tech conference where fellow attendees were discussing audiobooks and downloading Libby

Trustee Schwab - Uses Libby for audiobooks

Trustee Reyes - Shared she is part of Facebook groups and has seen posting regarding library renovation



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

March 13, 2025 at 4:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

8. 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

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

5/8/2025 at 4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK



STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT:

Authorization to Use Library Trust Funds for Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FF&E) for Library Infrastructure Project

DEPARTMENT:

Escondido Public Library

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval (Rino Landa, Library Director)

Staff recommends the Escondido Library Board of Trustees approve the use of Library Trust funds in the amount of \$260,000 for the purchase of furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) as detailed in the latest quote provided to the City.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The proposed expenditure of \$260,000 for FF&E will be funded entirely through the Library Trust, which has an available fund balance of \$619,979.63 as of March 31, 2025. This fund includes a significant donation of \$256,853.53 received in 2024 from the Seelig family. The quoted FF&E cost includes installation, delivery, applicable taxes, and a 15% contingency for potential future cost increases. Pricing is based on a cooperative purchasing agreement initially negotiated by Orange County, ensuring competitive and favorable pricing.

PREVIOUS ACTION:

On October 22, 2024, the Library Board of Trustees held a public workshop to discuss expenses associated with the Library Infrastructure grant project not covered by grant funds. At the July 11, 2024, Board meeting, Trustees directed the City Manager to formally incorporate the Patricia D. Seelig donation into the Library Trust, contingent upon additional public workshops and receipt of detailed quotes for unfunded FF&E needs.

BACKGROUND:

The Escondido Public Library secured a \$10 million grant through the Building Forward Library Facilities Improvement Program ("Infrastructure grant") administered by the California State Library. The grant has a clearly defined scope, strictly limited to infrastructure improvements. Grant funds may only be used for items permanently affixed to the building, including fixed shelving, carpeting, and related demolition. Conversely, furniture, mobile shelving, and equipment fall outside the grant scope and must be funded separately.

Given these grant limitations, FF&E items including furniture, fixtures, and movable equipment for the library's first floor require alternative funding sources. Staff recommends using the full amount of the Seelig donation





(\$256,853.53), supplemented slightly by the existing Library Trust funds, to cover the \$260,000 needed for FF&E as quoted by GM.

Additional unfunded FF&E needs remain, notably approximately \$100,000 for furnishing the second-floor Children's space, and approximately \$80,000 for four first-floor study pods. To fully support Literacy programs and accommodate school-age learners, a total of \$165,000 would be required for a total of ten study pods (four two-person pods and one six-person study room on the second floor). Staff is currently soliciting quotes via an RFP process for carpeting the second floor, another cost not eligible for Infrastructure grant funds.

The City continues to explore funding options for necessary exterior improvements, including landscaping updates, parking lot repaving, and ADA enhancements, which also fall outside the Infrastructure grant's eligible scope.





Attachment:

GM City of Escondido Library Budget with Finishes – submitted 03/27/2025





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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Open Area	48		Sit On It Rio Chair Plastic Seat & Back, Sled Base, Armless Chocolate , Chrome Base	\$ 141.26	\$ 6,780.48
	16		Sit On It Rio Light Task Chair Plastic Seat & Back, Armless Chocolate, Silver Base	\$ 224.36	\$ 3,589.76
	8		Sit On It Rio Counter Stool Plastic Seat & Back, Armless Navy, Chrome Base	\$ 215.07	\$ 1,720.56
	16		Sit On It Tensor Table Square Top, 36" x 36" ORDER SAMPLE: White Top + White Silver base	\$ 429.17	\$ 6,866.72







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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
	1		Herman Miller Headway Communal Table <i>Seated Height, 42"D x 120"W, w/ Power</i> <i>Oak on Ash with Warm Stone Bottom</i>	\$ 4,423.70	\$ 4,423.70
	2		Herman Miller Headway Communal Table <i>Counter Height, 36"D x 72"W, w/ Power</i> <i>Oak On Ash with Warm Stone Bottom</i>	\$ 3,187.97	\$ 6,375.94
	10		Arcadia Leaf Lounge Chair Rotating Tablet, Metal Legs, Grade 3 Fabric <i>Chrome Base + White Tablet Arm</i> <i>Seat: Designtex -Tour, Cabin</i> <i>Back: Designtex - Tour, Waterfall</i>	\$ 1,582.30	\$ 15,823.00
	10		Arcadia Leaf Lounge Chair Rotating Tablet, Metal Legs, Grade 3 Fabric <i>Chrome Base + White Tablet Arm</i> <i>Seat: Designtex -Tour, Cabin</i> <i>Back: Maharam - Lariat, Stella</i>	\$ 1,527.39	\$ 15,273.90

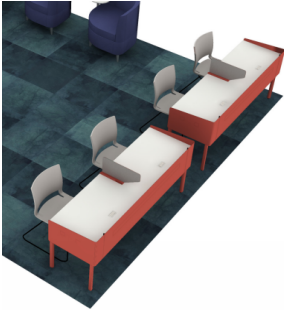





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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
	2		SitOnIt Prise Benching Stations 8 Seater, 30"D x 48"W Desks w/ Dividing Screen <i>Folkstone Grey Table Top</i> <i>White Base</i> <i>Link, Ocean Fabric Gr 2</i>	\$ 7,222.03	\$ 14,444.06
Open Area Subtotal:				\$	75,298.12
Space	6		Sit On It Rio Chair <i>Plastic Seat & Back, Sled Base, Armless</i> <i>Lagoon with Chrome Base</i>	\$ 141.26	\$ 847.56
	3		Sit On It Tensor Table <i>Rectangular Top, 30" x 60"</i> <i>Folkstone Grey with Chrome Legs</i>	\$ 480.98	\$ 1,442.94
	1		Herman Miller Tu Storage <i>Open & Closed Bookcase, 20"D x 84"W</i> <i>Oak on Ash</i>	\$ 2,735.34	\$ 2,735.34

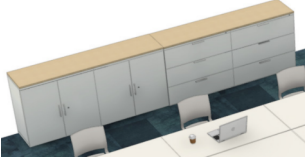





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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Teen	1		Herman Miller OE1 Communal Tables Seated Tables with Divider Metal Screens and Metal Boundary Screen <i>Tabletop: Sandstone Metal Screen: Nightfall</i>	\$ 3,483.64	\$ 3,483.64
	3		Arcadia Leaf Lounge Chair Rotating Tablet, Metal Legs, Grade 3 Fabric <i>Solid, Maharam, Lariat, Stella Tablet Arms + Legs: Chrome Tablet Surface: White</i>	\$ 1,499.15	\$ 4,497.45
	3		Arcadia Scenery Modular Grade 3 Fabric <i>Momentum, Dexter, Baltic</i>	\$ 1,804.01	\$ 5,412.03
Teen Space Subtotal:				\$	18,418.96
	10		Sit On It Rio Chair Plastic Seat & Back, Sled Base, Armless <i>Navy with Chrome Base Clear Glides</i>	\$ 141.26	\$ 1,412.60




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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Activity & Makerspace	1		Herman Miller Tu Storage Open & Closed Bookcase, 20"D x 84"W Metallic Silver Cabinets Top: Oak on Ash Pull: Metallic Silver	\$ 4,444.06	\$ 4,444.06
	11		Herman Miller Everywhere Flip Top Table 30"D x 60"W Top: Folkstone Grey Base: Metallic Silver Casters	\$ 964.64	\$ 10,611.04
Activity & Makerspace Subtotal				\$	16,467.70
Study Rooms	10		Sit On It Rio Chair Plastic Seat & Back, Sled Base, Armless Navy with Chrome Base	\$ 141.26	\$ 1,412.60
	2		HON Preside Touchdown Table Seated Height, 42"D x 72"W Natural Recon	\$ 933.83	\$ 1,867.66
Study Rooms Subtotal:				\$	3,280.26







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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
CS Team & Staff Area	5		HON Mod Desk <i>Seated Height, 42"D x 72"W</i> <i>Desert Oak, Silver Hardware</i> <i>Tackboard: Inertia Loft</i>	\$ 856.99	\$ 4,284.95
	5		*Comparable Option* HON 10500 Series Desk <i>Seated Height, 30"D x 72"W</i> <i>Natural Recon, Silver Hardware</i> <i>Tackboard: Inertia Loft</i>	\$ 2,070.33	\$ 10,351.65
CS Team & Staff Area Subtotal:				\$	4,284.95
	6		Sit On It Rio Chair Plastic Seat & Back, Sled Base, Armless Lagoon with Chrome Base	\$ 141.26	\$ 847.56
	16		Sit On It Rio Counter Stool Plastic Seat & Back, Armless Lagoon with Silver Base	\$ 215.07	\$ 3,441.12




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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Café	4		<p>Sit On It Parallon Table Disc Base, Counter Height, Round Top, 30"Dia</p> <p>Top: Folkstone Base: Silver</p>	\$ 411.57	\$ 1,646.28
	6		<p>Sit On It Parallon Table Disc Base, Seated Height, Square Top, 30" x 30"</p> <p>Top: Folkstone Base: Silver</p>	\$ 406.19	\$ 2,437.14
	2		<p>Sit On It Parallon Table Dual Disc Base, Counter Height, Racetrack Top, 36" x 72"</p> <p>Top: Folkstone Base: Silver</p>	\$ 744.44	\$ 1,488.88
	4		<p>Sit On It Parallon Table Dual Disc Base, Seated Height, Rectangular Top, 30" x 72"</p> <p>Top: Folkstone Base: Silver</p>	\$ 742.00	\$ 2,968.00




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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
	4		Arcadia TooTheLounge w/ Table Plinth Base, Grade 1 Fabric **L Brackets May be Visible** <i>Seat + Back Fabric: Momentum, Dexter, Baltic</i> <i>Vertical Panel: Designtex Tour, Cabin</i> <i>Plinth: Witchcraft</i>	\$ 7,771.34	\$ 31,085.36
	5		Arcadia TooTheLounge Plinth Base, Grade 1 Fabric <i>Seat + Back: Designtex, Tour, Navigate</i> <i>Vertical Panel: Designtex, Tour, Waterfall</i>	\$ 3,807.23	\$ 19,036.15
Café Subtotal:				\$	62,950.49
	1		Arcadia Iso Lounge Surround Panels, Cubby Right, Grade 1 Fabric <i>Vertical Panel: Designtex, Tour, Waterfall</i> <i>Seat: Momentum, Dexter, Baltic</i> <i>Siren Maple Laminate, Rotating Tablet</i>	\$ 3,825.53	\$ 3,825.53
	2		Arcadia Iso Lounge Cubby Right/ Left, Grade 1 Fabric <i>Seat: Momentum, Baltic, Dexter</i> <i>Small Corner Square: Designtex Waterfall</i> <i>Siren Maple Laminate, Rotating Tablet</i>	\$ 2,336.32	\$ 4,672.64




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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
Quiet Room	1		Herman Miller OE1 Communal Tables Seated Tables with Divider Metal Screens and Metal Boundary Screen <i>Oak on Ash</i> <i>Metal Panel: Glacier</i>	\$ 3,587.58	\$ 3,587.58
	11		Sit On It Rio Chair <i>Plastic Seat & Back, Sled Base, Armless</i> <i>Navy with Chrome Base</i>	\$ 141.26	\$ 1,553.86
	4		Sit On It Gobi <i>Mid Back</i> <i>Fabric: SitOnIt Element, Brownstone</i> <i>Legs: Polished Aluminum</i>	\$ 1,001.06	\$ 4,004.24
	4		Sit On It Parallon Table <i>Disc Base, Seated Height, Round Top, 30"Dia</i> <i>Top: Folkstone</i> <i>Base: Confirm</i>	\$ 406.19	\$ 1,624.76



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Area	Qty	Budget 1			
		Product Details		Pricing	
		Product Image	Manufacturer & Series	Unit Cost	Extended Cost
	4		Sit On It Uni Laptop Table White Top & Base	\$ 255.15	\$ 1,020.60
Quiet Room Subtotal:				\$	20,289.21
Budget Product Subtotal:				\$	200,989.69
Sales Tax (7.75%)				\$	15,576.70
Contingency				\$	40,197.94
Grand Total				\$	256,764.33

City of Escondido
Library Trust
Fund 004
FY 2024-25 through March 31, 2025

Account #	Account Description	Amount	Description of Activity
General Library Trust			
3050	Beginning Fund Balance, 07/01/2024	\$ 737,769.79	
		-	
	Revenues, 07/01/2024 - 03/31/2025		
4601	Library Trust Dividends	1,427.94	Signal Hill Petroleum & JP Oil Dividends
4602	General Donations	-	
			City Investment Pool allocated based on the cash balance in the Library Trust Fund.
4609	Investment Earnings	9,019.23	
4621	Library Sales	52.00	Sale of Headphones, Library Tote Bag, and USB Flash Drive
4370	Reimbursement from Outside Agencies	-	
4990	Other Revenue	5.06	Reimbursements from CENIC grant
	Total Revenues	\$ 10,504.23	
	FY 2024/25 Budgeted Expenditures	Beginning Budget	Actual Expenditures
			Remaining Budget
			Restrictive funds used towards purchasing adult/teen materials in a variety of formats.
400501	Neihoff Donation	36,493.00	-
400819	Library Technology	5,848.02	-
400839	Literacy Projects	11,644.27	3,422.42
408201	Pioneer Room	17,388.30	
409201	Youth Services-Library	25,000.00	20,206.34
409401	Ryan Trust Pioneer Room	31,920.80	-
	Total Expenditures	\$ 128,294.39	\$ 23,628.76
			\$ 104,665.63
			*This is the remaining balance of budgeted projects.
	Ending Fund Balance, 03/31/2025		724,645.26
			This balance includes actual expenditures.
	Remaining Project Budgets*		(104,665.63)
	Available Fund Balance for Future Projects, 06/30/2025	\$ 619,979.63	This balance includes budgeted expenditures.



STATISTICS REPORT

Monthly Library Board of Trustees Statistics 2024-2025		December	January	February
CIRCULATION:	Physical Materials	36,876	38,280	35,701
	Digital Materials	6,688	7,549	6,983
	Total Circulation	43,564	45,829	42,684
	Holds Satisfied	1,984	2,392	2,177
INTER-LIBRARY LOANS:	ILLs Checked Out	2	1	1
	Link+ Items Borrowed (EPL patrons)	306	398	351
	Link+ Items Lent (to patrons at other libraries)	377	364	404
POPULATION & BORROWERS:	Total Registered Borrowers	92,732	93,440	94,036
REFERENCE QUESTIONS:	Total Reference Transactions	5,255	6,125	5,741
LIBRARY SERVICES:	Public Service Hours	243	251	231
	Main Library Visits	11,500	19,163	10,615
ELECTRONIC SERVICES:	Users of Public Internet Computers	1,874	1,947	2,211
	Wireless Sessions	10,704	19,675	21,193
	Number of Website Visits	9,636	13,003	11,812
VOLUNTEERS:	Total Active Volunteers	120	119	113
	Total Volunteer Hours	750	942	882
PROGRAMS:	# of live, in-person programs	161	108	157
	Live, in-person attendance	1,556	1,247	2,529
	# of live, off site programs (outreach)	2	4	4
	Live, off site program (outreach) attendance	48	539	401
PIONEER ROOM:	Pioneer Room Visits:	225	593	254
	Digital Collection Items Accessed:	37	271	133
	On-Site Items & Resources Accessed:	78	54	113





STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES REPORT

4) RESILIENCE

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

Strategy	Objective	Timeline	Status
Reduce waste.	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	No updates
	Continue to ensure proper disposal by verifying reuse and recycling of materials that have been withdrawn from the collection and technology that has reached end of life.	FY 2024–2027	No updates
	Educate residents about responsible consumption by partnering with the City Recycling Division to offer two Library programs such as composting.	FY 2025–2027	Partnered with City Divisions to provide a table with literature and upcoming workshops to celebrate Earth and Garden Month in April 2025.
	Shorten travel distance and reach a larger audience by providing programs in three different spaces throughout the service area.	FY 2025–2027	School and non-profit outreach continues and more is planned with the move to the mall.
Encourage healthy living.	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	Succulent swap programs continue to be popular.
Encourage wellness.	Provide alternatives to screen time for children and tweens by offering four non-screen focused programs.	FY 2024–2027	All children’s programs are screen free; the library play area increased non-screen options at the library during 2024-2025.
	Support mindfulness by inviting a local yoga studio to offer one series of free classes.	FY 2025–2027	Mindfulness and mediation classes are offered monthly; more are in the works pending the move to the mall.





LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hoopla Budget & Usage Update

In March 2025, Escondido Public Library's *Hoopla* platform showed improved alignment with budget controls. For the first time since implementing the monthly spending cap, the full budget was not expended, resulting in a \$60 surplus that rolled over into April. Between March 3 and March 19, 110 download blocks occurred due to the daily cap being reached, but no blocks were reported after March 19. Notably, the timing of blocked downloads shifted from the early morning hours (before 1:30 AM) to later in the morning (between 9:00–10:00 AM), indicating a change in patron usage behavior.

In April, during the first week, only 50 download blocks were recorded—a significant reduction from March. All April blocks occurred after noon, with the earliest at 1:13 PM on April 2. This continued shift toward later blocking times and the decreased number of incidents suggests increased patron awareness and a positive adjustment to the new access model. Library staff will continue monitoring patterns and provide further analysis in the next update.

LSTA Funding Update & Impacts on Library Services

The California State Library has notified public libraries statewide that Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funding has been cut off by the Trump Administration, as part of a broader attempt to dismantle the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)—the federal agency through which LSTA funds are distributed. Unless funding is restored or backfilled at the state level, multiple services currently funded by LSTA will be discontinued in the 2025–26 fiscal year, including all competitive grant programs.

The most significant loss for Escondido Public Library is the elimination of statewide access to California's Bookshelf—a shared collection of eBooks and digital content. This service has been essential in offsetting recent reductions to *Hoopla* access, and its loss will significantly impact patrons' ability to access eBooks and other digital materials.

Additional statewide services set to be discontinued include:

- New York Times subscriptions: We were in the process of implementing this benefit for our patrons. As it had not yet been launched, there is no immediate local impact.
- CalMatters for Learning, CALL training, summer reading support resources, ProLiteracy and Change Agent subscriptions, VolunteerMatch, PolicyMap, and digitization services: These services primarily support staff development, literacy efforts, and future programming potential. Their discontinuation will have limited immediate impact, but may constrain future planning and staff capacity, especially in the Literacy Services program and the Pioneer Room.

We will continue to assess how best to respond to these losses and explore alternatives. Advocacy efforts through the California Library Association and other partners are underway to urge federal funding restoration or identify replacement resources at the state level. A detailed analysis will follow in upcoming meetings.





ADULT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



Community Engagement and Interest in Nowruz Display

The library received considerable community interest in the *Nowruz* celebration and the *Haf-Seen* traditional table display in March. To support the display, marketing staff prepared 50 informational brochures about the *Haf-Seen* table, of which 47 were picked up by patrons—indicating strong public engagement. Library staff at both service desks also received several questions about the display, with some patrons expressing particular curiosity about the cultural items presented and a

desire to learn more through interactive experiences. This feedback suggests future opportunities for expanded cultural programming and deeper patron involvement.

PIONEER ROOM HIGHLIGHTS

In March, the Pioneer Room welcomed **60 researchers**, including a patron who presented a unique challenge: retrieving an *International Gemological Institute Colored Stone Report* from a microfilm image smaller than a postage stamp. Using the Epson V850 Pro scanner, staff successfully extracted the details of a July 29, 1964 report on a 0.97-carat natural ruby—demonstrating the ongoing relevance and technical capability of the library's local history resources.

The Pioneer Room also participated in the community's celebration of Women's History Month at the Escondido History Center on March 14. As part of the event, Archivist Ashley Hays shared a first-edition copy of *The Dictator*, a rare book of shorthand exercises written by Escondido's first librarian, Mina Ward. The presentation was especially meaningful, taking place in the very building where Ms. Ward served from 1898 to 1901. This event honored both the pioneering legacy of local women and the historical roots of public library service in Escondido.





YOUTH SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



March was a vibrant month of growth, celebration, and community connection for Youth Services. Increased attendance across multiple programs reflects strong community interest and engagement, particularly among families with young children.

Storytime Success

Our children's storytimes continued to thrive, with notable increases in attendance. *Toddler Time* drew an impressive **636 attendees**, while our *Little Explorers* program for ages 0–5 welcomed **324 participants**. These numbers reflect the ongoing popularity and impact of early literacy programming at the library.

Maslenitsa Celebration

In March, the library proudly hosted its first-ever *Maslenitsa* celebration, welcoming **75 attendees**. This vibrant cultural event marked the end of winter and the arrival of spring. With the generous support of the Russian Heritage Center, families enjoyed festive music, a dynamic performance, crafts, and traditional treats—making it a memorable experience for all.

Community Engagement Programs

Youth Services continued to foster meaningful community connections through a range of programming. Our *Chess Club* drew **87 participants**, offering strategic fun and learning. *Jueves*, our Spanish-language cultural program, engaged **175 attendees** and provided enriching content for multilingual families.

Hands-On Learning Programs

Children enjoyed creative, STEM-based experiences in our *LEGO* and *Tinker* programs, which drew **30 and 50** participants respectively. These hands-on programs continue to be a cornerstone of engagement and learning.

New Technology for Young Learners

We are excited to introduce *Launchpads* and *AWE Tablets* to the Youth Services collection. These educational devices offer interactive learning through pre-loaded games and activities designed to foster critical skills in a fun, engaging way. We look forward to seeing how these new tools enrich our patrons' library experiences.

