



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 08, 2024 at 4:00 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, FEBRUARY 08, 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.



AGENDA

ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [1.](#) Review and approve January 11, 2024 meeting minutes

CURRENT BUSINESS

STATISTICS REPORT

- [2.](#) Statistics Report
- [3.](#) Library Trust Fund Report: Quarter 2
- [4.](#) Strategic Plan: Goals and Objectives Report

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- [5.](#) Library Director's Report



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 08, 2024

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. Library Board of Trustees Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month in the City Council Chambers, City Hall. Meetings begin at 4:00 PM with some exceptions.

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 4:00 p.m. City Council Chambers

Thursday, April 11, 2024, **6:00 p.m.** City Council Chambers

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m. City Council Chambers



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Item 1.

January 11, 2024 at 6:00 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. Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Library Board of Trustees meeting.

Motion made by Trustee Schwab, Seconded by Trustee Clemens
Approved 5-0

CURRENT BUSINESS

2. **Library Board of Trustees Bylaws Revision - City Librarian Interview Process**

Trustees will review and discuss the revision to the Library Board of Trustees Bylaws approved by majority motion during the December 14, 2023 meeting.

3. **Collection Development Policy Review**

Review and discussion of the Library Collection Development Policy.

Presenter: Rino Landa, Library Director

STATISTICS REPORT

4. **Library Annual Report FY 2022-2023**

Rino Landa, Library Director, will present the Escondido Public Library Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Annual Report for review and discussion by the Board of Trustees.

Presenter: Rino Landa, Library Director

5. **Monthly Statistical Report**

Rino Landa, Library Director, provided update



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. Library Director's Report

Rino Landa, Library Director provided an update

7. Existing Art Policy

Rino Landa, Library Director provided an update

TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

Trustee Reyes shared about the auto-renew feature, asked for clarification on late fees obtained prior to new policy of no late fees and is excited for the upcoming reading challenge

Trustee Schwab has made a few quick visits to the library since November

President Bunnell participated in the cat food drive; noted February is black history month and asked about upcoming activities

Secretary Bova took advantage of free Covid tests during the holiday break and visited the Friends of the Library Bookstore

Trustee Clemens shared her holiday reading experience

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

8. Library Board of Trustees Meetings are scheduled for the second Thursday of the month in the City Council Chambers, City Hall. Meetings begin at 4:00 PM with some exceptions.

Thursday, February 8, 2024, 4:00 p.m. City Council Chambers

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 4:00 p.m. City Council Chambers

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

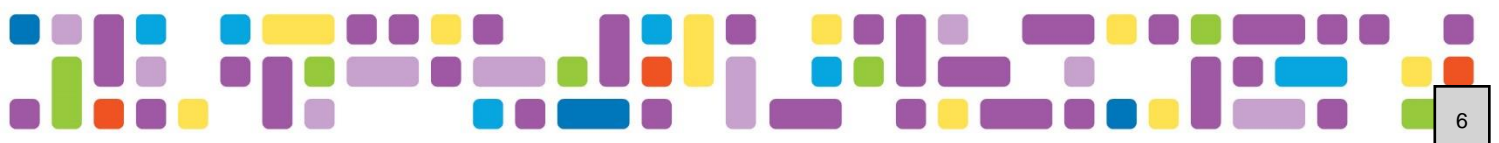
PRESIDENT

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK



STATISTICS REPORT

Monthly Library Board of Trustees Statistics 2023-2024		October	November	December
CIRCULATION:	Physical Materials (Books, media, museum passes, laptops)	39,025	40,456	34,512
	eMaterial (includes eBooks and eAudiobooks-OverDrive, CloudLibrary, Biblioboard,	8,069	7,881	7,838
	Total Circulation	47,094	48,337	42,350
	Holds Satisfied	2,265	2,094	1,841
INTER-LIBRARY LOANS:	ILLs Checked Out	2	0	4
	Link+ Items Borrowed (EPL patrons)	412	321	294
	Link+ Items Lent (to patrons at other libraries)	296	328	272
POPULATION & BORROWERS:	Total Registered Borrowers	85,248	85,751	86,042
REFERENCE QUESTIONS:	Total Reference Transactions	6,063	4,784	4,884
LIBRARY SERVICES:	Public Service Hours	260	230	247
	Library Visits	23,151	19,882	18,316
ELECTRONIC SERVICES:	Users of Public Internet Computers	2,473	2,059	2,050
	Wireless Sessions	10,000	6,096	12,396
	Number of Website Visits	9,060	7,516	6,672
VOLUNTEERS:	Total Active Volunteers	99	116	90
	Total Volunteer Hours	1,040	1,081	802
PROGRAMS:	# of live, in-person programs	177	135	85
	Live, in-person attendance	2675	2070	1328
	# 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)	205	38	210
	Live, off site program (outreach) attendance	180	136	86
	# of take home kits given out	80	80	80



**City of Escondido
Library Trust
Fund 004
FY 2023-24 through December 31, 2023**

Account #	Account Description	Amount	Description of Activity
General Library Trust			
3050	Beginning Fund Balance, 07/01/2023	\$ 425,318.57	
	Revenues, 07/01/2023 - 12/31/2023	.	
4601	Library Trust Dividends	1,081.15	Signal Hill Petroleum & JP Oil Dividends
4602	General Donations	-	Individual donation checks
			City Investment Pool allocated based on the cash balance in the Library
4609	Investment Earnings	1,210.31	Trust Fund.
4621	Library Sales	46.00	Sale of Headphones, Library Tote Bag, and USB Flash Drive
4370	Reimbursement from Outside Agencies	-	Reimbursement for prior year grant funds (CRISIS)
4990	Other Revenue	-	Reimbursements from CENIC grant
	Total Revenues	\$ 2,337.46	
	FY 2023/24 Budgeted Expenditures	Beginning Budget	Actual Expenditures
			Remaining Budget
400501	Neihoff Donation	36,493.00	-
400819	Library Technology	5,848.02	-
400839	Literacy Projects	11,644.27	-
408201	Pioneer Room	17,388.30	
409201	Youth Services-Library	25,000.00	-
	Total Expenditures	\$ 96,373.59	\$ -
	Ending Fund Balance, 12/31/2023	427,656.03	This balance includes actual expenditures.
	Remaining Project Budgets*	(96,373.59)	
	Available Fund Balance for Future Projects, 12/31/2023	\$ 331,282.44	This balance includes budgeted expenditures.



STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS & OBJECTIVES REPORT

4) EMBRACE EMERGING SERVICES

GOAL STATEMENT: EPL provides experiences that reveal the Library is more than a place for books and is the center for lifelong learning in Escondido.

Strategy	Objective	Timeline	Status
Educate residents about modern library services.	Create understanding among residents that libraries are places to connect with the community, access exciting new technology, have fun, and enrich lives by leveraging social media and newsletter once a month.	FY 2023–2027	Send two monthly eNewsletters and post programs, services, and events on our Social Media.
	Reach out to new community members by sending welcome newsletter. Gather email addresses during participation at four community events per year.	FY 2023–2027	Attended: Love Esco Day on February 3, 2024. To Attend: World Thinking Day @ the San Diego Children's Discovery Museum on February 25, 2024.
Raise awareness of EPL services.	Leverage analytical data and strategic marketing channels to best reach users and nonusers with information about services. Identify three patron segmentation groups and launch a communication campaign.	FY 2024–2027	Three groups identified based on data: Peak Tween/Teen readers, ages 12-15; Returning Adults, ages 39-43; and Retirees, ages 65-70.
Encourage reading.	Adjust collection budget to meet specific community needs (bestsellers, eBooks) and shorten wait times by leveraging LibraryIQ analytics data.	FY 2023–2027	Ongoing as part of our collection development. Changes to reduce neglected databases in favor of increased spending on popular print collections, as well as boost to Spanish collections.
	Celebrate reading throughout the year by offering one reading challenge in addition to Summer Reading.	FY 2023–2027	Summer Reading Challenge 2024 runs June-July. Winter Reading Challenge is nearly complete, having run from mid-January through Mid-February, 2024. Offering In-N-Out Cover to Cover Book Club Oct. 7 to Nov. 18 for ages 4 to 12. Annual program
	Provide personalized service by creating reading suggestion lists (available by request on website).	FY 2024–2027	In January 2023, the Library launched its "what should I read next" webpage that includes staff selections and curated reading lists. Additionally, the Library now provides a live Reader's Advisory service for patrons called "BookChat" which is powered by NoveList.
	Improve offerings to Spanish speakers by reviewing Spanish language physical collection performance and making adjustments quarterly.	FY 2023–2027	Adult Services staff did a full inventory of the adult Spanish collection in January 2023; new review is ongoing. A display with low-circulating Spanish fiction was created for February 2023 and a non-fiction display was up in March/April.
Support early literacy and education.	Support parents as child's first teachers by offering three parent education programs.	FY 2024–2027	Family Literacy educates parents on early literacy learning so it can be practiced at home.
	Help prepare children for kindergarten by leveraging the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Increase participation each year of plan.	FY 2025–2027	1000 Books before Kindergarten continues to register participants.



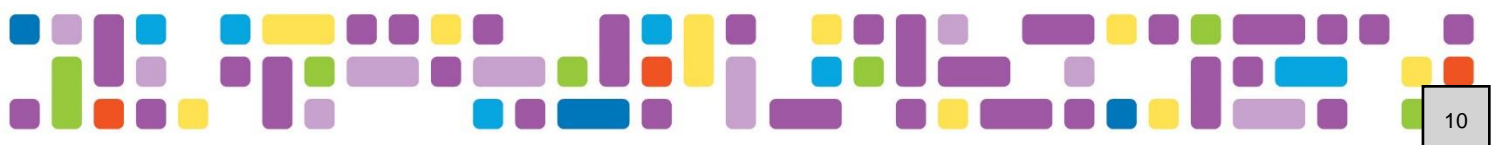
Strategy	Objective	Timeline	Status
Introduce innovative	Increase availability of technology to boost digital literacy and bridge the digital divide. Identify and supply four technology/communication platforms.	FY 2025–2027	Working to identify local community partners to offer more digital literacy programs. Grants and partnerships are being targeted to procure wifi hotspots, laptop dispensers, and other similar technologies.
	Support adults and teens by providing four life skills programs (financial literacy, sewing and mending, etc.), affordable living classes (couponing, etc) annually.	FY 2025–2027	Plans for renewed Teen programs around skills building are being developed by library staff.
Provide access to new and existing technology	Support tech adoption by providing one-on-one tech instruction two days each month, including help on how to download and stream content to personal devices.	FY 2026–2027	We currently offer this on a walk in basis, but are happy to offer drop in times.
	Support equity by providing laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots for circulation beyond Library buildings. Plan for some loss in annual budget, as would happen for print collection.	FY 2026–2027	We need to figure out how we will fund this. Likely through grants.
Offer services beyond Library walls.	Increase impact by taking reading programs out into the community. Partner with one educational institution per year in order to promote reading in a meaningful and measurable way.	FY 2024–2027	Developing plans for this FY.
	Leverage efficiency by partnering with City Parks and Recreation to participate in four events.	FY 2023–2027	The Library contributes content to the quarterly Escondido Recreation Guide (the next one comes out in March). In 2023, the Recreation department donated free pool passes as a partner in our Summer Reading Challenge; we look forward to this partnership in 2024.
	Provide pickup of materials throughout the community to reduce travel distance for patrons. Pickup lockers can be located at parks and recreation sites, fire stations, etc. (Pending funding availability.)	FY 2024–2027	Currently researching low-cost alternatives to library industry vending technologies.





LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Renovation Grant:** On January 24th, 2024, the City Council approved a request to award RFP 24-11 to IDS Group, in an amount not to exceed \$747,000 for design services for the Escondido Library Critical Infrastructure and Modernization Project. The firm will be joining City and Library staff in ongoing project meetings once the contract is signed by all parties.
- **Library Budget - State:** As part of Governor Newsom's 2024-2025 budget, the State Library and the various programs and grants that it manages are slated for cuts. Attached to this report are two addendums with pertinent information: *Addendum A* is a copy of a press release prepared by the California Library Association covering how the Governor's budget cuts could impact libraries throughout the state; *Addendum B* is a copy of a more recent newsletter item from the California State Librarian informing libraries of a lack of renewed funding for several popular online tutoring and career development services. Due to the EPL's infrastructure grant being part of "Round 1" grants and it being well underway, we do not anticipate the cuts to affect the library renovation. However, we are encouraging all library support groups to voice their concern for the proposed cuts. The library will be slated to lose access to unfunded state-provided services, such as Brainfuse tutoring, if the freeze on new spending goes unchanged. Library staff are reviewing database statistics in order to identify services that are popular enough to warrant local subscription.
- **Library Budget— Local:** On January 31st, 2024, the City presented Council recommendations to use ARPA funds to cover the cost of operating the Escondido Public Library for two years. The following is item related to Library funding as presented by the City:
 - *Library Management Agreement - \$6,157,990*
Libraries have been at the forefront of keeping communities connected during the COVID-19 pandemic, and continue to play key roles in addressing education, employment, and health needs during the ongoing recovery. As a reminder, the Escondido Public Library is owned by the City and managed by Library Systems & Services (LS&S) under a Management Agreement. The current Management Agreement term is set to expire on June 30, 2027. It is the staff's recommendation to terminate the current agreement and negotiate a new ARPA-funded agreement through FY2026. This sustains library operations for two fiscal years during which alternative revenue sources can be sought in order to sustain library operations on a longer-term basis. This also eliminates more than \$3 million annually from the estimated \$10 million structural budget deficit for the next two fiscal years. Beyond this action, there is no future funding for this service.



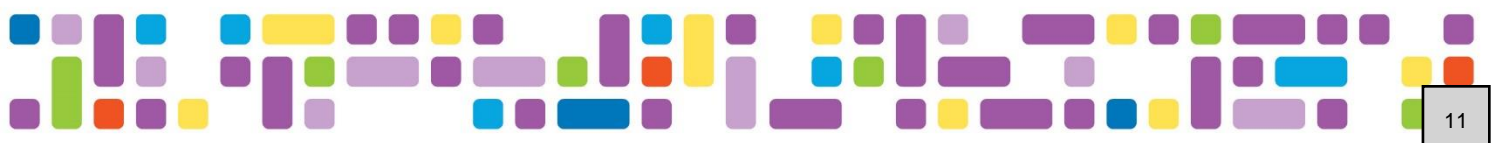


- **Grants:** The Library has identified several LSTA-funded grants that are targeted for submission. The *Play for All* grant, which targets the design, production, and installation of play spaces for children under age 8, is a priority. The award of up to \$75k will be used to refresh the toddler play area on the 2nd floor. Submissions to the state are due in early March, 2024.
- **Staff:** Two positions are being reinstated to support the overall functions of the library: 1) an Archivist for the Pioneer Room and, 2) a Circulation Supervisor to support the customer services department. Other organizational restructuring is being worked on and is expected to be ready once all the new positions are filled. The goal of the restructure is to provide professional librarians with more supervisory responsibilities and to spread administrative and HR-related tasks across more levels of the library team.

ADULT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



- First on the calendar was the **2nd Saturday Concert** featuring the **Sunny Side Strings** on January 13, 2024. This all-acoustic bluegrass/Americana band, hailing from North County San Diego, graced our library with their heartfelt melodies and toe-tapping tunes. Celebrating over a decade of music, the band, which includes local residents and even a library book club member, performed for the first time at our venue to an enthusiastic crowd of **99 attendees**. Their rich history of performances at notable venues, including the Del Mar Fair and Ramona Bluegrass Festival, added a special note to their debut at the library.
- Adding a splash of color and creativity to the month, our **Artsy Adult** program hosted a **Spin Art** event on January 24, 2024. This imaginative session attracted **22 participants** who unleashed their creativity by dripping vibrant paints onto spinning canvases, resulting in unique and mesmerizing works of art. The event provided a wonderful opportunity for attendees to explore their artistic side in a fun and supportive environment.





- The library also embraced the green-fingered spirit of our community with a **Succulent Swap** on January 27, 2024. We were thrilled to welcome **May Fong Ho** from the **SD Cactus and Succulent Society**, who shared her extensive knowledge on succulents and planting techniques. The event saw a remarkable turnout of **109 attendees**, who engaged in lively discussions, swapped succulents, and planted new green friends to take home. It was a day filled with greenery, growth, and gardening wisdom.

PIONEER ROOM HIGHLIGHTS

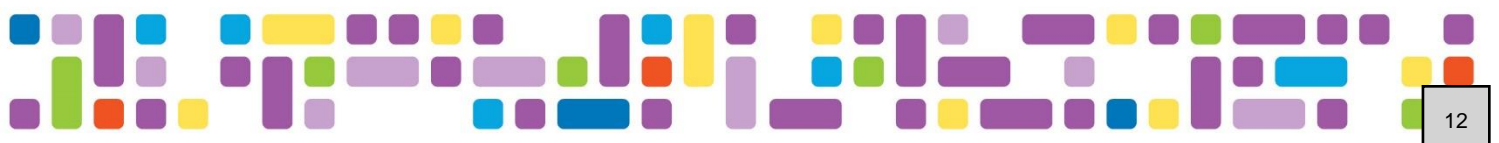
- In January, the Pioneer Room served **51 patrons**. Digital collections increased from 667 items in December to **893 items** by the end of January.
- Pioneer Room staff discovered a previously unprocessed collection of items donated by Marlene G. Lipsey-Turrentine (1939-2022) in 2012. The collection has a beautiful array of photographs and personal items from her husband, Howard B. Turrentine (1914-2010), including photographs believed to date back to the 1870s! Staff will process this collection in February and expect to make it available for viewing online and in person at the end of the month.
- The Pioneer Room also launched the newest gallery exhibit, Wild Animal Park. Patrons visiting the exhibit will explore captivating snapshots from the Times-Advocate newspaper, showcasing the early days (1979-1992) of what Escondido now fondly calls as the San Diego Zoo Safari Park. This exhibit was curated by a Pioneer Room volunteer and will be available to view in the Pioneer Room throughout 2024.

YOUTH SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS



The Escondido Public Library has been a beacon of joy and learning for our younger patrons this January 2024, with a series of children's activities that have sparked creativity, curiosity, and celebration.

- Kicking off the month, we were thrilled to **resume our beloved weekly storytimes** after the holiday break. The excitement was palpable as families and children eagerly returned, ready to dive into the magical





world of stories, songs, and crafts. These sessions have always been a cornerstone of our children's programming, fostering a love for reading and learning in a fun and engaging environment.

- Highlighting the month's events was our enchanting **Lunar New Year Celebration**, held in honor of the Year of the Dragon. We were honored to host author **Dr. Virginia Loh-Hagan**, who captivated our young audience with a reading from her book, Popo's Lucky New Year. Dr. Loh-Hagan shared the significance of the Lunar New Year and enriched the children's understanding of this important cultural celebration. The festivities were made even more memorable with the distribution of red envelopes for luck, a cherished tradition.

Our creative little guests also had the opportunity to immerse themselves in hands-on activities, crafting paper lanterns, origami dragons, dragon headbands, and a spectacular paper chain dragon. These activities not only allowed the children to express their creativity but also to connect with the cultural essence of the Lunar New Year. The event was a tremendous success, with **75 attendees** joining in the celebration.





**Escondido
Public Library**

239 South Kalmia Street,
Escondido, CA 92025
760.839.5440

www.escondidolibrary.org

ADDENDUM A: CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PRESS RELEASE

January 10, 2024

TO: CLA MEMBERS/ SYSTEMS/ NETWORK CONTACTS
FROM: Christina DiCaro, CLA Lobbyis
RE: News From the Capitol

GOVERNOR NEWSOM RELEASES 2024-25 STATE BUDGET

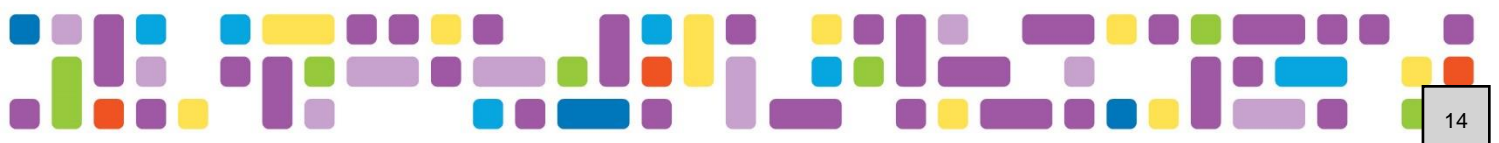
Proposes Large Cuts to Library Infrastructure and Library Broadband Grants

This morning Governor Gavin Newsom unveiled his much-anticipated 2024-25 January Budget in front of the press corps in Sacramento. Unfortunately, the Governor's plan contains significant proposed cuts to numerous state programs, including the library infrastructure grant program and the library broadband grant program under the State Library's jurisdiction.

Capitol watchers have been anxiously waiting to see how the Governor would tackle a reported \$68 billion budget deficit, a daunting dollar amount which had been flagged several weeks ago by the state's non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO). In his remarks this morning, the **Governor scored the Budget deficit at \$37.86 billion**, which would appear to be better fiscal news for the Golden State, but still a challenging deficit to close. The Governor said that the difference in the numbers between his Department of Finance and the LAO are largely a result of the delayed state tax receipts - due to the waivers provided for residents in declared disaster areas after the California January 2023 storms. The Governor noted that "all of this uncertainty happened because we experienced something we've never experienced in modern history of the state. We didn't collect taxes in April of last year." The Governor added that the state's typical process is that the Governor releases his Budget in January and then has the opportunity to revise his Budget in May (in a document known as the "May Revision") once April tax receipts are received and additional financial factors are taken into account. The Governor's Budget document states, "With reliable tax filing deadlines, the degree of revenue drop associated with the 2022 market declines would have become evident as tax receipts were received in the spring" of 2023, which did not occur. He likened the predictions associated with the 2023-24 budgeting to working on future estimates while "blindfolded."

With regard to the reductions to the State Library programs, the Governor's Proposed Budget reads:

- **Support for Local Library Infrastructure** – "The Budget proposes to pull back \$131.3 million one-time General Fund of the \$439 million in one-time General Fund support provided for the Local Library Infrastructure Grant Program in the 2021 Budget Act, and proposes to forgo planned one-time General Fund investments of \$33 million in 2024-25, \$33 million in 2025-26, and \$34 million in 2026-27."





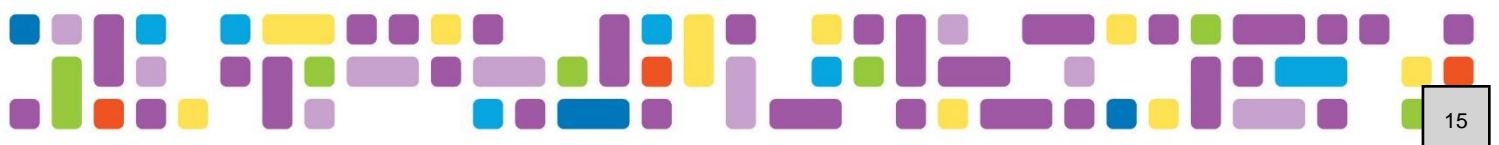
As CLA members will recall, thanks to the advocacy of CLA and the support and assistance of the Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins, then-Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Governor Newsom, and State Librarian Greg Lucas, the 2021-22 State Budget included an unprecedented \$439 million in library construction grant funding for public library projects. The 2022-23 Budget also contained \$50 million in additional funding for library construction grants. The grants were used for various library health and safety construction projects, renovations, or expansions at public libraries. Interest in the program has been substantial, with applications to the State Library program far exceeding the dollars appropriated by the state. In fact, several months ago, CLA sent a letter to Governor Newsom, encouraging him to include up to another \$300 million for more infrastructure library grants in his new Budget if state revenues had stabilized. As CLA members are aware, the Governor and First Partner have been strong supporters of public libraries and library initiatives, so this proposed cut seems to speak to the severe budget challenges facing the Governor and Legislature.

Additionally, the Budget reads:

Statewide Library Broadband Services: “To address the projected budget shortfall, the Budget proposes to pull-back \$34 million of the \$35 million provided to expand broadband access to isolated and under-served communities through a collaborative partnership of local education agencies, and regional libraries due to low participation in the program.” (*emphasis added*)

Here are some of the other key components from the Governor’s January Budget:

- There is a total of \$8.5 billion in reductions (cuts) from various program areas such as:
 - \$2.9 billion in Various Climate Reductions
 - \$1.2 billion in Various Housing Program Reductions
 - \$762.5 million in State Vacant Position Funding Sweeps
 - \$350 million in previously approved legislative requests
 - \$289 million for the Middle Class Scholarship Program
- \$5.1 billion in delays to various programs “and spreads it across the three-year period, beginning 2025-26” such as:
 - \$1 billion for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capitol Program
 - \$613 million for the full implementation of the DDS Service Provider Rate Reform
 - \$550 million for the Preschool, Transitional Kindergarten and Full-Day Kindergarten Facilities Grant Program
 - \$400 million for the Clean Energy Reliability Investment Plan



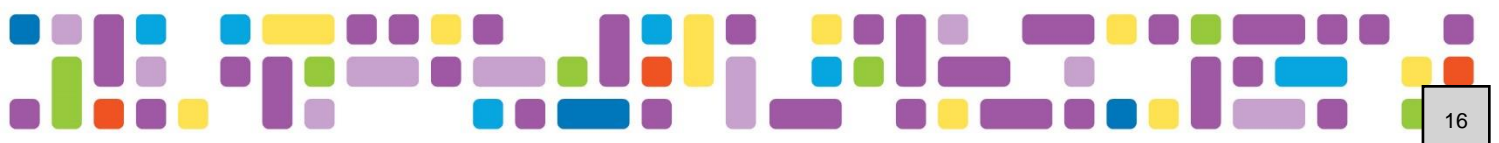


- \$3.4 billion in Fund Shifts – moving the dollars from the General Fund to other fund sources such as:
 - \$1.8 billion for the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund
 - \$1.3 billion for retirement contribution reductions (shift to the Prop 2 account)

A unique element of the Governor's Budget, as referenced above in the "reductions" category is the deferral of *"all new, discretionary spending decisions to this spring, for discussion with the Legislature, based on actual revenues. Therefore, the balanced plan reflected in the Budget defers the consideration of resource requests associated with recently chaptered legislation (emphasis added) to the May Revision. As part of the spring budget process, the Administration is committed to working closely with the Legislature to prioritize the budget related to recently chaptered legislation."* This note seems to signal a potential clawing-back of some of the newly enacted 2023 legislation that may be poised for implementation, and affecting various state departments and agencies, until the state has a better understanding of spring revenues.

Finally, the Governor also proposes delaying the implementation of a much-publicized agreement reached last year with the legislature to raise the minimum wage of health care workers incrementally to \$25 an hour, effective June 1, 2024. "The Administration is seeking early action in January by the Legislature to add an annual 'trigger' to make the minimum wage increases subject to General Fund revenue availability, clarify the exemption for state facilities, and make other implementation clarifications."

The Assembly and Senate Budget Committees will hold an overview hearing of the Governor's Budget at the end of the month and then the Committees will break into subject area Budget subcommittees, where they will review the Governor's proposals in greater detail. The state Budget must be passed by the two houses and sent to the Governor by the Constitutional deadline of June 15th, or the legislature must forfeit pay.



**ADDENDUM B: EXCERPT OF NEWSLETTER FROM THE STATE LIBRARIAN**

“There’s a lot of other stuff I’d rather talk about in the inaugural issue of Library-to-Library but the point of newsletters is to inform and it’s important to know what the governor’s January Budget means to local libraries.

The spending blueprint unveiled two weeks ago attempts to close a gap the governor says is roughly \$40 billion between current state spending commitments and estimated tax receipts.

To not grow that gap, every request the State Library submitted seeking more money was denied. Among our requests was continuing the online tutoring offered through Brainfuse, a very successful pilot program in which students logged more than 240,000 sessions in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Mandarin – in just the first nine months of operation.

The January budget includes no money to continue online tutoring in the fiscal year that begins July 1, 2024.

Similarly, one-time, pandemic relief funds were used to purchase statewide subscriptions to SkillShare, LinkedIn Learning and other platforms, which we provide free to you and the communities you serve in a package called CAREer Pathways.

Are these valuable and cost-effective programs that improve access to opportunity to all Californians, school kids in particular? Of course. If you hadn’t told us they are, we wouldn’t have bought them in the first place. Usage numbers back up your assessment.

The budget also calls for pullbacks in state support for broadband and library facilities local assistance, but the two online resources reductions are somewhat “hidden” in that money wasn’t taken away from them, money to continue them simply wasn’t provided.

Of course, the spending plan proposed in January isn’t going to be the budget OK’d by the Legislature or the one signed by the governor six months from now.

Tax revenue estimates are updated in May and the economic outlook will change – one way or the other. Over the next months, lawmakers will be listening to what they hear from their communities and using that to establish the spending priorities they fight to include in the final budget...”

-- Greg Lucas, State Librarian

