



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 11, 2024 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, JANUARY 11, 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.](#) Minutes of the December 14, 2023 Library Board of Trustees meeting.

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.

STATISTICS REPORT



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024

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.

5. Monthly Statistical Report

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. Library Director's Report

7. Existing Art Policy

TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

ADJOURNMENT

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



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

December 14, 2023 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

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

LS&S Staff Present: Rino Landa, Library Director

City Staff Present: Zack Beck, City Clerk

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of minutes from the November 9, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Schwab; Second: Reyes; Approved 5-0

CURRENT BUSINESS

2. Library Board of Trustees Bylaws Revision

Motion to add the following language to Section 5 of the Library Board of Trustees Bylaws: "Article 'F', section 4, of Attachment 'A' in the contract between the City of Escondido and LS&S, concerning the position of City Librarian, states: 'Appointment of an individual to this position shall be subject to the approval of the Library Board and City Manager and his/her designee.' In order to complete a thorough vetting of new City Librarian candidates, the President and Secretary of the Library Board of Trustees or delegate, as a sub-committee, will participate in the complete interview process and report their recommendation to the Board during a Library Board of Trustees meeting": Schwab; Second: Clemens; Approved: 5-0

3. Statistics Report
4. Strategic Plan Update

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5. Library Director's Report



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

Trustee Reyes – Visited the children’s area of the library with her son and commended library staff.

Trustee Clemens – Checked out travel books from the library to plan her trip to Europe.

Secretary Bova – Met with Rino Landa.

President Bunnell – Met with Mayor White and gave him a tour of the Library.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday January 11, 2023 6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers

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 4:54 p.m.

PRESIDENT

CITY CLERK

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Purpose and 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. 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.

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.

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 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 individual 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 a diversity of viewpoints enabling citizens to make the informed choices necessary in a democracy.

Responsibility for Selection

Under the general supervision of the Library Director, the Supervising Librarians 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 by Supervising Librarians using the same selection criteria as general purchases. An electronic resources committee recommends resources for purchase.

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 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.

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

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;
- 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.

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

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 at www.escondidolibrary.org/reconsideration. 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 formal objection.

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 at www.escondidolibrary.org/purchasesuggestion.

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* form at www.escondidolibrary.org/reconsideration.

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.



2022-2023 Annual Report

2022–2023 Annual Report Escondido Public Library

Letter From the Library Director	3
Escondido Public Library by the Numbers.	4
Strategic Plan Update	6
Youth Services Highlights	8
Adult Services Highlights	10
Adult Literacy Services & Families for Literacy	15
Pioneer Room	17
Contributors & Partners	19

Letter From the Library Director

The Escondido Public Library (EPL) celebrated new beginnings while expanding on popular programs and services during the 2022–2023 fiscal year (FY). Guided by the Library's Strategic Plan, staff worked tirelessly throughout the year to develop and present new and innovative programs. The goals of this past year's activities were to provide experiences that bring the community together, embrace diversity in our growing city, and ensure the Library's place as an information hub for all.

Building on the elimination of overdue fines last year, the Library furthered its goal of improving access by joining Link+ in October 2022. Link+ offers a shared catalog of materials from over 72 California libraries, including public and academic, providing patrons access to over 6.5 million titles. As a free interlibrary loan service, Link+ allows our community to borrow materials that may not otherwise found in, or purchased by, the Library. Escondido is able to continue providing Link+ via the SERRA Library Cooperative and is completely funded for the next five years. With Link+ service, the Library greatly expanded our community's access to a variety of informational and recreational materials.

In FY 2022–2023, patrons of all ages enjoyed a selection of programs highlighting the diversity of cultures and tradition of Escondido. Youth and Adult Services, energized by state grants, launched culturally enriching programs like the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, South American Adventure, and Around the World in Many Ways: Tradición Mexicana USA; each sparking excitement with storytelling, interactive activities, and cultural showcases. A major highlight was the successful Nowruz celebration, the Persian New Year, which saw an impressive turnout of 180 attendees. This event, enriched by a partnership with the Persian Cultural Center and support from the Friends of the Library, offered attendees an immersive experience with traditional food, music, dance, and educational insights into the history of Nowruz. These and many other free Library programs offer Escondido the chance to learn about diverse cultures and foster a sense of community and mutual understanding.

Finally, FY 2022–2023 saw significant contributions to the Library's role as a center for reading through our popular reading and literacy programs. This summer marked a triumphant return to in-person events with the Summer Reading Challenge. Doubling last year's participation, the Library welcomed 1,461 readers across all age groups. The Library's Adult Literacy Services & Families for Literacy expanded by introducing English as a Second Language (ESL) classes to the benefit of adult non-English speakers in our community. Additionally, the Library's many book clubs, writers' groups, and storytimes, continued to support our mission as the center for lifelong learning in Escondido.

We look forward to the many exciting developments coming to the Escondido Public Library in the new year and thank all who make the Library a significant cornerstone of our community.

Rino Landa,
Library Director



Escondido Public Library BY THE NUMBERS

Item 4.

FISCAL YEAR
July 1–June 30

LIBRARY



PATRON VISITS (PHYSICAL)

FY 2022–2023: 237,522
FY 2021–2022: 202,946 ▲ **14%**



PATRON VISITS (VIRTUAL)

FY 2022–2023: 200,609
FY 2021–2022: 202,375 ▼ **1%**



PATRON VISITS (TOTAL)

FY 2022–2023: 438,131
FY 2021–2022: 405,321 ▲ **7%**



FREE EVENTS

FY 2022–2023: 736
FY 2021–2022: 505 ▲ **31%**



EVENT ATTENDANCE

FY 2022–2023: 23,625
FY 2021–2022: 11,935 ▲ **95%**



TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

FY 2022–2023: 104
FY 2021–2022: 129 ▼ **19%**



TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS

FY 2022–2023: 15,144
FY 2021–2022: 19,092 ▼ **20%**

TOTAL CHECKOUTS

FY 2022–2023:
532,629

• eBook and eAudiobook
checkouts comprised 84,324 or
16% of total circulation

FY 2021–2022:
501,844

• eBook and eAudiobook
checkouts comprised 73,170 or
15% of total circulation

Escondido Public Library

BY THE NUMBERS

LITERACY



TOTAL LEARNERS SERVED

FY 2022-2023: 70

FY 2021-2022: 62  **13%**



TOTAL INSTRUCTION HOURS

FY 2022-2023: 4,014

FY 2021-2022: 3,501  **15%**

PIONEER ROOM



TOTAL COLLECTIONS USED

FY 2022-2023: 1,413

FY 2021-2022: 334  **423%**



TOTAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS ANSWERED

FY 2022-2023: 200

FY 2021-2022: 181  **11%**

Strategic Plan Update

Item 4.

In January 2018, Library Systems & Services (LS&S) began operating the Escondido Public Library with the goals of connecting to the community, helping it grow, and inspiring innovation through access and service. To do this successfully, the Library needed a metrics system in place. A five-year Strategic Plan was created with heavy input from the community

to determine the course of action Escondido Public Library should take to best serve patrons. This past year saw the start of the Library's second strategic plan covering 2022-2027. During this first year, the Library began to address many of the four established goal areas set in the current strategic plan.

1. COMMUNITY HUB/CULTURAL CONNECTOR

EPL will provide experiences that bring the community together, embrace the diversity of a dynamic and growing community, and be a hub for local information.



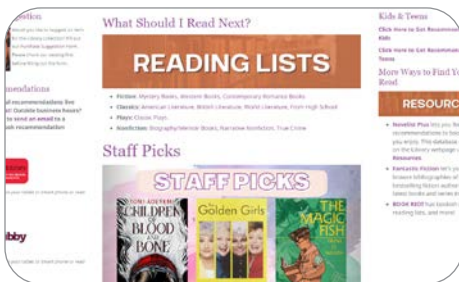
Leverage partnerships for visibility: Emphasized new and strengthened partnerships with local museums and colleges. Increased outreach to local schools and back-to-school events in the community.



Embrace diverse cultures: Adult and Youth Service Departments awarded \$10k in California State Library Innovation Grants to highlight cultures from around the world.

2. EMBRACE EMERGING SERVICES

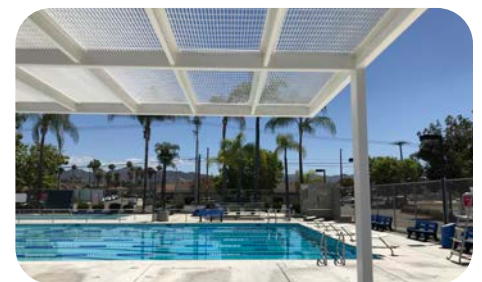
EPL provides experiences that reveal the Library is more than a place for books and is the center for lifelong learning in Escondido.



Encourage reading: Launched "What Should I Read Next" webpage in January 2023. Continued the successful Summer Reading Challenge and 1000 Books Before Kindergarten programs.



Educate residents about modern library services: Created two monthly eNewsletters and expanded social media posts on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and other social platforms.



Offer services beyond Library walls: Partnered with City Parks and Recreation to promote Library events in the quarterly Recreation Guide and supply free pool passes during the Summer.

Strategic Plan Update

3. SUPPORT ESCONDIDO ECONOMY

EPL offers materials, technology, programs, and spaces to support local businesses and for residents to learn, connect and have fun.

Job Readiness Workshop Series: Resume Writing Skills



Support employment: Hosted resume and career preparedness workshops hosted in the Spring of 2023, leading up to an annual Career Fair at the Library in May.



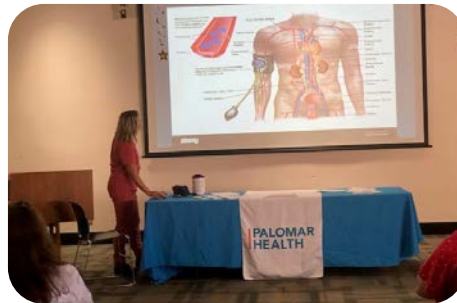
Engage children by offering STEAM: Partnership with California State University San Marcos to present after-school STEAM programs for children, ages 8-12, every week.

4. RESILIENCE

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



Reduce Waste: Continued partnership with the Friends of the Escondido Library to resell weeded materials and surplus donations to support Library programs and services.



Encourage healthy living: Offered Succulent swap, gardening, and Healthy You programs.



Encourage wellness: Added new meditation and mindfulness classes for adults.

Youth Services Highlights

Youth Services had a remarkable year in 2022, as we fully returned to in-person programming and expanded our offerings. Toddler Tales experienced a surge in attendance, prompting us to split the program into two storytimes to better serve the growing toddlers and meet their developmental needs. Our Summer Reading Challenge (SRC) themed "Oceans of Possibilities," made a triumphant return after two years of virtual events.

One of FY 2022–2023's significant achievements included securing the Library Innovation Lab Grant from California Humanities. With this grant, the Library engaged Escondido's immigrant communities through enriching programs, including the captivating performances of Danza Xinaxtli and Tradición Mexicana USA. Participants were thrilled to witness Indigenous dances and immerse themselves in cultural activities such as making piñatas inspired by Las Posadas. The grant also enabled us to celebrate the Midautumn Moon Festival and explore South American regions with a visiting storyteller. These programs fostered a stronger connection to the community, sparking a keen interest in Latin American cultures and a growing demand for bilingual storytimes.

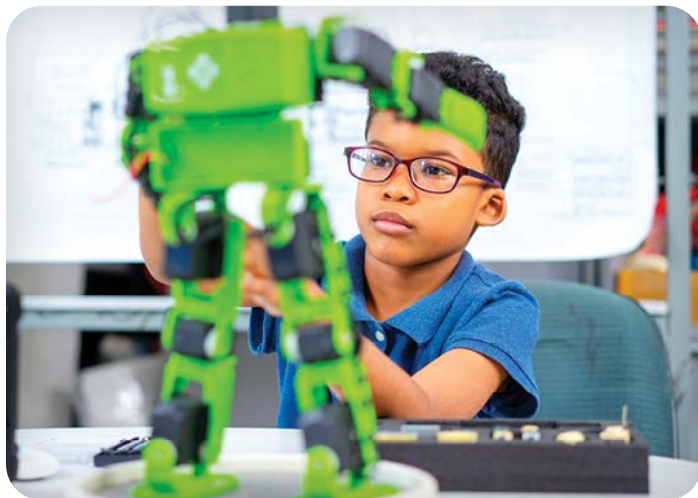
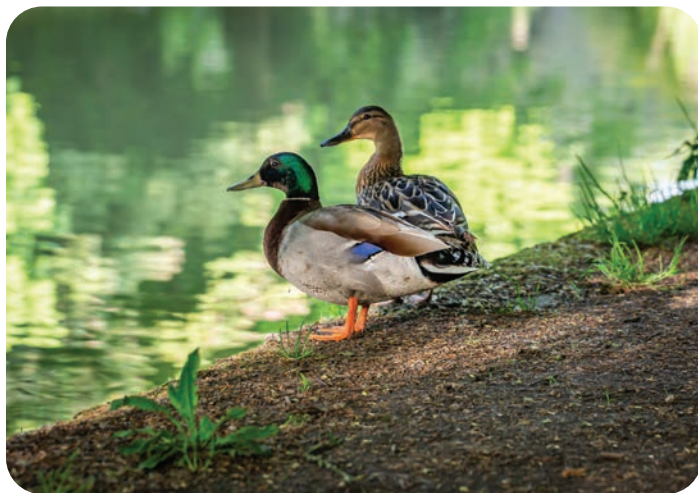
Our annual Día de los Muertos program continued to be a resounding success, bringing various departments together to create a memorable celebration with an ofrenda community altar, traditional folklorico dance, Pan de Muerto, and more. Día de los Muertos has become one of the Library's signature events, cherished by patrons.



Youth Services Highlights

For FY 2022-2023 partnerships, Youth Services collaborated with the San Dieguito River Park Rangers and California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) on two separate grants. With CSUSM's National Foundation grant, we engaged Escondido tweens in STEM programming, addressing real-life problems like drought and global warming while allowing CSUSM students to earn teaching credentials in a virtual environment. The partnership with the San Dieguito River Park Rangers, through the California State Parks grant, focuses on outdoor equity access Escondido, providing young adults with volunteer opportunities and insights into alternative careers.

Looking ahead, we hope to build on the success of these initiatives and continue inspiring cultural programming at the Escondido Public Library. The overwhelming positive response from the community encourages us to pursue even greater achievements in the future.



Adult Services Highlights

Throughout FY 2022–2023, Adult Services was happy to continue many hybrid monthly educational and entertainment programs and implement new in-person programs based on the Library’s Strategic Plan and patrons’ 2022 evaluation forms.

MONTHLY & REGULAR PROGRAMS

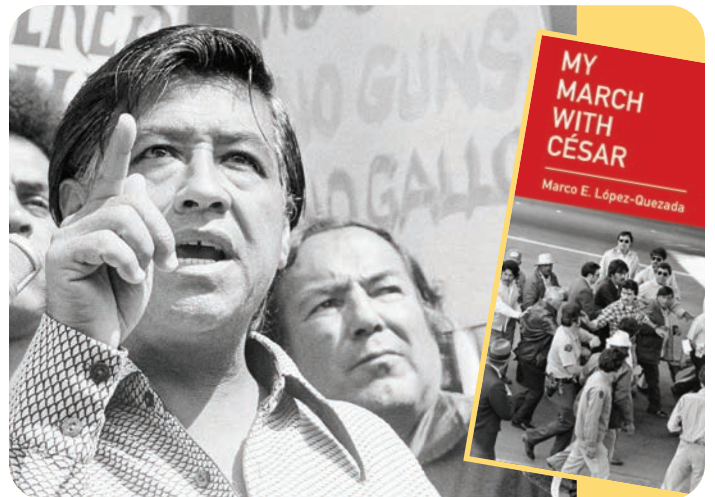
- **Book Clubs**—Centered around Escondido reading, book clubs currently include: 2nd Tuesday Book Club, Rincon Literario (Bilingual Spanish and English Book Club), Between the Covers (Romance Book Club), and the two separate meeting groups of Comic-Con Adult Graphic Novel Book Clubs.
- **2nd Saturday Concert Series**—A series that brings music and culture to the Library to entertain patrons.
- **The Escondido Writers Group**—This program focuses on writing techniques, steps to success in publishing, and author guests sharing writing experiences. This program is twice a month on the first and third Tuesday of the month.
- **Read Local, Shop Local**—A community and partnership-based program that emphasizes the strong bonds with local businesses to provide more services for Escondido residents.



Adult Services Highlights

NEWLY-IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMS

- **Board Game Café, 1/8/2022.** An entertainment program, Board Game Cafe brought education and fun together while helping families to learn new games.
- **Succulent Swap, 1/15/2022, 7/16/2022.** This semiannual program gathered gardening enthusiasts together to exchange succulents and advice. Participants also received gardening tips from Library partners. These programs were in partnership with the Master Gardeners Association of SD County, Escondido Community Garden, and the City of Escondido: Utilities, Recycling, Recreation Center.
- **Pop Culture Panel Series—Horror, 1/29/2022.** Virtual expert panelists discuss all things macabre in books, short stories, art, and film. The program was in partnership with the San Diego Chapter of The Horror Writers Association and Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore.
- **Virtual Author Chat Series—YA Fantasy, 2/17/2022.** A virtual author chat provided a chance for patrons with *New York Times* best seller Lauren Blackwood, Tanya Ross, and two other authors.
- **Artsy Adults.** This quarterly program allowed adult patrons create their own artistic masterpieces spend three sessions in 2022 including: Rock Painting (March); Beach Frame (July), Spooky Silhouette Painting (October).
- **My March With César by Marco López Quezada, 3/31/2022.** Author Marcos E. Lopez Quezada visited the Library for a discussion on his memoir in celebration of Cesar Chaves Day.



Adult Services Highlights

- **Your Story. Write now, Hybrid Writing Workshop, 6 sessions on 4/11/2022, 4/25/2022, 5/9/2022, 5/23/2022, 6/13/2022, 6/27/2022.**

A workshop focusing on professional writing and publishing, this program offered six sessions including: Instruction and definition of a story and article, premise, the importance of conflict, character development, setting, point of view, publishing market analysis, determining what publications are looking for and how to submit, and hints to submitting work.



- **Once Upon A Book Fair, 6/4/2022.** The Escondido Writers Group hosted 26 local authors at Grape Day Park and provided a friendly and educational atmosphere for authors to meet each other, sell their books and discuss their stories and ideas with attendees.



- **Gardening Club Workshop: Worm Composting, 6/25/2022.** As one of the Gardening Club Workshop sessions in partnership with the City of Escondido, Recycling Division, this workshop helped participants learn how to make backyard compost and build and maintain worm bins for their gardens.

- **Oceans of Paranormal, 7/2/2022.** A presentation by Nicole Strickland, leading author and expert in paranormal activities, Oceans of Paranormal explored the haunted past of RMS Queen Mary and Star of India.



- **Healthy You Series: "Blood Pressure Screening" and "Reducing Hypertension", 8/10/2022.** This workshop in partnership with Palomar Health taught attendees how to reduce hypertension. Participants also had the option to receive a free blood pressure reading by experts from Palomar Health.

Adult Services Highlights

- **Healthy You Series: Obesity Screening or Body Composition Analysis, 8/24/2022.**

In partnership with Palomar Health, this workshop provided information on body fat, muscle, and basal metabolic rate, and provided a free obesity screening and body composition analysis for participants.

- **Healthy You Series: Meditation and Mindfulness, 9/14/2022, 9/28/2022.**

The Healthy You series consisted of two successful pilot sessions with response to patrons' requests. These well-attended sessions supported goals under the Library's strategic plan.

- **International Games Week Celebration & Board Game Café, 11/5/2022.**

In celebration of Game Month and bringing games to the Library this program hosted families and individuals for fun and play.

- **Author visit. Warren 'Chuck' Jonson, 11/9/2022.**

Author Warren Johnson recounted his path of transformation from a depressed, overweight, stressed-out business leader to a lean competitive triathlete, bodybuilder, and blue-water sailor.

- **'lipay—From Creation to Present, the History of the Barona Band of Mission Indians, 11/16/2022.**

A program in partnership with Barona Cultural Center and Museum's Education Department, the history of the Barona Band of Mission Indians including their traditional life the history of the Barona reservation and contemporary issues was presented spotlighting Indigenous peoples.

- **Book Launch, 12/17/2022.**

The Library celebrated the publication of Pete Peterson's new novel, *Leave the Night to God*, with the Escondido Writers Group spotlighting their former facilitator. The book launch highlighted Mr. Peterson's efforts in writing and supporting local authors.



Adult Services Highlights

- **Nowruz: Persian New Year Celebration, 3/25/2023.** This well-attended program was organized with the Persian Cultural Center's partnership and Friends of the Library's support to present Iranian culture and customs in their new year. Based on the Library's strategic plan to cover the diversity of the community, 180 participants attended the Persian New year Celebration and requested we run it annually.
- **Job Readiness Workshop Series and Career Fair, May and June 2023.** Adult Services was able to plan and run two successful programs with the San Diego Workforce Partnership. The Job Readiness Workshop held three sessions including Resume Skills, Job Interview Preparation, Resume Reviews, and Mock Interviews, which prepared job seekers for the Career Fair and help the job seekers find jobs. On June 6, 2023, the Career Fair hosted over 35 employers and 233 job seekers who talked with employers face to face and made an appointments for interview. This program was also supported by the Library's strategic plan and the community's needs.
- **Shortcuts to Writing & Publishing Short Stories, June 2023.** This four-session writing workshop was organized to support the local writers' needs in writing and publishing techniques in completing the Escondido Writers Group program.



Adult Literacy Services & Families for Literacy (FFL)

ESL CLASSES

In September 2022, Adult Literacy Services expanded its offerings by introducing ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. To ensure the classes' success, we welcomed a new ESL specialist who played a pivotal role in establishing best practices and training additional staff. Currently, we offer two levels of classes four days a week (Monday through Friday), all of which are conducted in person, garnering high praise from our Literacy Learners.

GARDENING EVENT

Literacy Services hosted an exciting Gardening Event for Literacy Learners and their families. With eager preparation for this event underway for weeks, attendees were invited to participate in various gardening-related activities and learn more about the enriching hobby. The City of Escondido Recycling Department delivered an informative presentation on composting and provided goodies for Learners to kickstart their composting and gardening journey at home. A captivating display of ollas accompanied a DIY project, demonstrating how to create self-watering clay pots using store-bought items.

The event featured several craft stations for adults and teens to enjoy, including making wind chimes, sun dials, or painting canvases and garden signs. Children had a blast listening to Rosie, Literacy Service's AmeriCorps tutor, who read two stories. They crafted paper butterflies, wind chimes with pipe cleaners and beads, and created vibrant canvases. Prizes and giveaways were distributed to conclude the event and each Learner left with packets of seeds, gardening gloves, and two books to develop their green thumbs and create something beautiful and beneficial for the planet.

LEARNER RECOGNITION DINNER

After a four-year hiatus, Literacy Services welcomed back the Learner Recognition Dinner in May 2023. This heartwarming event was hosted at the Park Avenue Community Center, inviting Learners and their families to celebrate their achievements throughout the year. The 2023 dinner commemorated four years of accomplishments, such as obtaining GEDs, becoming U.S. citizens, applying for college, and being able to read picture books to grandchildren. Several Learners bravely shared their experiences and spoke to their peers during the event, serving as a powerful inspiration for everyone in attendance. The Dinner was a meaningful culmination of the Learners' hard work and dedication to English comprehension and enhancing lifelong literacy skills, a testament to the positive impact literacy education has on their lives.

Pioneer Room

Operated by the Escondido Public Library, the Pioneer Room was established in 1992 with a bequest from historian Frances Beven Ryan. A valuable space, the Pioneer Room houses the Library's collection of local Escondido history and genealogy research materials.

ENHANCED WEBSITE EXPERIENCE

We revamped the Escondido History website, offering an effortless journey into our historical treasures. With a streamlined interface, visitors easily navigate the wealth of local history and genealogical information available through the Pioneer Room. Users can now watch the Pioneer Room Tour or submit research requests with ease.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS LAUNCH

The launch of our Pioneer Room's digital collections marked an exciting moment in preserving and sharing Escondido's history. By digitizing manuscripts and photographs from various collections, we ensured broader access and extended the reach of Escondido's heritage to online visitors, researchers, and history enthusiasts.

EXPANDING DIVERSITY IN THE ARCHIVES

The Pioneer Room takes great pride in its commitment to expanding diversity in the archives. By translating materials into Español and actively collecting materials about Escondido's LGBTQIA+ and communities of color, we celebrate and honor Escondido's diverse heritage.

DISCOVERING HISTORIC ESCONDIDO

Partnering with John Archer in Adult Services, we brought patrons on engaging walking tours of Historic Escondido. Showcasing local architectural treasures, John unveiled the stories behind iconic homes and properties, deepening the community's appreciation for our remarkable history.



Pioneer Room

SRC BEGINNING GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

Our genealogy workshop connected researchers to their ancestral heritage. With expert guidance from volunteer Beth McIntyre and comprehensive resources, participants unearthed new insights into their roots, fostering a sense of belonging and identity.

MEET OUR DEDICATED STAFF

Ashley Hays, an Indiana University graduate, joined the Pioneer Room in 2019. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University and enjoys putting her education and commitment for preserving Escondido's history into processing collections, researching new materials, and developing programs for the Pioneer Room.

Abril C. Ruiz Erives joined the Pioneer Room in 2022, bringing a passion for local history and a commitment to inclusivity. With a history degree from Cal State San Marcos, they research Escondido's diverse history, focusing on LGBTQIA+ and communities of color while actively translating materials into Español for accessibility and inclusivity.

Together, these accomplishments exemplify our commitment to preserving Escondido's history. Special thanks to our dedicated staff, volunteers, Pioneer Room Friends, and our community for their generous support.



EUSD

TOSTADA BEAN MIXTURE 3/8 C SERVING = 1 1/2 OZ. PROTEIN Temp. _____

--SECONDARY--		Ingredients	-K-6-		M
100 Portions	1600 Portions		100 Portions	1100 Portions	
Amounts	Amounts		Amounts	Amounts	
# 12.10	65#	DRY BEANS	4#	45#	SORT AND W
#10	27 #10	CANNED BEANS**	1 2/3 #10	18 #10	W/WATER &
	2#	BUTTER	1/4#	1 1/2#	ADD CANNED
	15#	DICED ONION	1#	10#	ONION & SA
C	4 C	SALT	1/4 C	2 3/4 C	SURE BEANS
C	2 C	CUMIN	1/8 C	1 1/3 C	W/WATER.
C	2 C	CHILI POWDER	1/8 C	1 1/3 C	NEXT MORNI
C	2 C	PAPRIKA	1/8 C	1 1/3 C	(RESERVING
C	1 C	GROUND OREGANO	1 T	2/3 C	TO MASH.
#	6#	SHORTENING	3/8#	4#	SHORTENING
#10	2 #10	TOMATO PASTE	1 1/2 C	1 1/2 #10	MIX WELL,
cup	1/2 cup	garlic powder		Betty Salt	LIQUID TO
					VOLUME. C
					POTATO FLA

IF NOT USING CANNED BEANS, DO 1 1/2 TIMES AMOUNT OF DRY BEANS.
 Volume: 46 GAL. 37 GAL. Volume: 2 1/2 GAL. 25 GAL.
 Pans:
 Size Serving:
 Source:

Escondido Union School District - School Lunch Recipe Card

Contributors & Partners

SUPPORT GROUPS

Escondido Public Library has the support of five amazing groups that donate time, funding, and countless other resources to ensure the Library provides for the community including:

- Library Board of Trustees
- Friends of the Escondido Public Library
- Escondido Library Foundation
- Friends of Literacy
- Pioneer Room Friends

STAFF

Escondido Public Library has a dedicated and hardworking staff of 29 people who provide excellent customer service, advisory to readers and programs and so much more for the residents of Escondido and the greater North County area. Our team is made up of eight MLIS-degreed librarians, an Operations Manager/Archivist, two Literacy Services Coordinators, a Volunteer Coordinator, a Marketing Coordinator, an Outreach Coordinator, three Library Associates in Adult Services, four Library Associates in Youth Services, and six Library Associates in Customer Service. Four staff members are enrolled in San Jose State University's Master of Library and Information Science program.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

In 2016, Escondido Public Library launched a community engagement program for local businesses called Read Local, Shop Local! This program is still going strong and facilitates cross-promotion of local businesses and the Library through marketing, events, and more. Our Read Local, Shop Local! partners are:

- ArtHatch Escape
- Burger Bench
- Clue Avenue
- Cute Cakes Escondido
- Day Dream
- EcoVivarium
- The Grand Tea Room
- Jimbo's...Naturally
- Kettle Coffee & Tea
- Mathnasium of South Escondido
- Patio Playhouse
- Persian Cultural Center
- Printing Solutions
- Rock On Pizza
- Shakey's Pizza Parlor
- SIP Wine & Beer
- Stone & Glass
- Sunny Side Kitchen
- Suzy Q's

Contributors & Partners

We also look for ways to partner with area organizations to enrich programs and offer more valuable services.

- 501st Legion (Star Wars Reads Day)
- City of Escondido Utilities Department (Succulent Swap)
- City of Escondido Recycling & Waste Department (Succulent Swap)
- Comic-Con International (Comic-Con Graphic Novel Book Clubs)
- County of San Diego (COVID-19 rapid tests)
- CSUSM Department of Civic Engagement
- Escondido Audubon Society (Backyard Bird program)
- Escondido Union High School District (Virtual outreach)
- Escondido Union School District (Virtual outreach)
- HarperCollins (Author Chat Series)
- Hawthorne Country Store Escondido (Seed Pickup)
- Madres y Familias Deportadas en Acción (Crafting Culture program)
- MAGEC (Museum & Arts Growing Escondido Culture)
- Mando Mercs (Star Wars Reads Day)
- Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore (Author Chat series)
- KPBS (One Book One San Diego)
- The Old Globe Theatre
- PB Creates (Artsy Adults craft kit)
- Rebel Legion (Star Wars Reads Day)
- The Ripped Bodice Bookstore (Author Chat series)
- San Diego Children's Discovery Museum
- San Diego Council on Literacy
- San Marcos Writers Group
- Sourcebooks (Author Chat series)
- Spring Career Services (Virtual Career Services program)
- Vista Community Clinic

NEW CONTRIBUTORS AND PARTNERS IN 2022

- Barona Cultural Center and Museum
- City of Escondido: Utilities, Recycling, Recreation Center
- Escondido Art Association
- Escondido Community Garden
- Master Gardeners Association of SD County
- Palomar Health
- San Diego Chapter of The Horror Writers Association



STATISTICS REPORT

Monthly Library Board of Trustees Statistics 2023-2024		September	October	November
CIRCULATION:	Physical Materials (Books, media, museum passes, laptops)	39,111	39,025	40,456
	eMaterial (includes eBooks and eAudiobooks-OverDrive, CloudLibrary, Biblioboard,	7,378	8,069	7,881
	Total Circulation	46,489	47,094	48,337
	Holds Satisfied	2,202	2,265	2,094
INTER-LIBRARY LOANS:	ILLs Checked Out	4	2	0
	Link+ Items Borrowed (EPL patrons)	330	412	321
	Link+ Items Lent (to patrons at other libraries)	357	296	328
POPULATION & BORROWERS:	Total Registered Borrowers	84,734	85,248	85,751
REFERENCE QUESTIONS:	Total Reference Transactions	5,861	6,063	4,784
LIBRARY SERVICES:	Public Service Hours	269	260	230
	Library Visits	20,438	23,151	19,882
ELECTRONIC SERVICES:	Users of Public Internet Computers	2,026	2,473	2,059
	Wireless Sessions	23,951	10,000	6,096
	Number of Website Visits	8,459	9,060	7,516
VOLUNTEERS:	Total Active Volunteers	91	99	116
	Total Volunteer Hours	892	1,040	1,081
PROGRAMS:	# of live, in-person programs	140	177	135
	Live, in-person attendance	2335	2675	2070
	# of live, virtual programs	1	0	0
	Live, virtual program attendance	6	0	0
	# of pre-recorded programs	0	0	0
	# of views of recorded program content	0	0	0
	# of live, off site programs (outreach)	87	205	38
	Live, off site program (outreach) attendance	143	180	136
	# of take home kits given out	80	80	80





LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Art Policy Update: After some research, an “**Acquisition and Display of Art in the Library**” policy was discovered to have been approved and adopted by the Library Board of Trustees on November 10, 2011. The existing policy focuses on the acquisition of donations of art and similar media to the library, but has limited policy regarding the temporary loan of such items for exhibits. The section related to temporary exhibits only relates to work display in partnership with the Escondido Art Association. **A new and expanded Art Policy is still recommended.**

New Library Website: Work with the City and CivicPlus continues on the setup and transition to a new website for the library. Training for key personnel is planned for mid-January.

Library Renovation and Grant: Finalist for firms to oversee the engineering, architecture, and design process for the renovation were interviewed in December. A report to the City Council is being prepared by city staff.

Winter Reading Challenge: Youth Services staff will soon start the program, which runs from January 15 – February 11.

ADULT SERVICES & PIONEER ROOM HIGHLIGHTS

- The Cultural Fair Series featuring the **Yalda Persian Winter Solstice Celebration** occurred on Thursday, December 7th. This vibrant event, sponsored by California Humanities and presented in partnership with the Persian Cultural Center, captivated **120 attendees** with its rich cultural offerings.
- On Saturday, December 9th, the **Second Saturday Concert Series** hosted the **Courtly Noyse**, renowned for their enchanting melodies, who performed to the delight of **99 audience members**.
- The library demonstrated its commitment to public health and well-being by initiating a giveaway of **COVID test kits**, successfully distributing a total of **67 kits** to community members in need during December.



Yalda Musical Performance



Attendees During the Yalda Celebration



- In December, the Pioneer Room served 37 patrons and launched the **Escondido Jaycees Collection of 160 photographs and manuscripts** on ContentDM. Eighty-three people viewed our online collections through ContentDM, and we now have 667 items on view in the digital collections.
- The Pioneer Room also received two large additions to its collections. The Escondido Public Library Collection added many **floor plans and blueprints** of the Library and Mathes Center/Pioneer Room buildings. The City Clerk Collection added many beautiful **ortho-topographic maps**, part of the County of San Diego topographic survey with inclusive dates between 1961 and 1982.

YOUTH SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

- **Holiday Tree Trimming Celebration:** Children and families celebrated the holiday season with Youth Services Staff. It was a festive time with stories, songs, a special guest, and a children's room tree that was decorated; **90 people attended**. Santa also visited the Inclusive Art Club and Toddler Tales during the month.



Winter Reading Challenge

January 15-February 11, 2024
 Babies & Kids • Tweens • Teens • Adults

Record your reading during the Winter Reading Challenge and earn a prize or a chance to win a gift card!

Babies & Kids Ages 0-8 Read 10 books to earn a prize pack!	Tweens Ages 9-12 Read 10 books to earn a prize pack!	Teens Ages 13-18 Read 10 hours to be entered to win a gift card!	Adults Ages 18+ Read 10 hours to be entered to win a gift card! Includes time spent reading to your kids.
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ESCONDIDO PUBLIC LIBRARY POLICY

ACQUISITION AND DISPLAY OF ART IN THE LIBRARY

The Escondido Public Library Board of Trustees recognizes that the display of art in the Library or on the Library grounds is a valuable service to the community. The term "Art" in this Policy refers to works in many media, including but not limited to paintings, drawings, sculpture, photography, maps, charts, posters, textiles, crafts, models, etc. All gifts of art will be made pursuant to an *Escondido Public Library Deed of Gift* agreed upon by the donor and the Library.

The following rules and procedures apply:

1. The Library staff does not determine the market value of any donated item; the value of any gift for tax purposes must be determined by the donor.
2. Work will be accepted for acquisition only if it meets general accepted community standards and is suitable for public display in the Library. The Library Board of Trustees and the City Librarian reserves the right to decline to display any specific work or body of work if such work does not meet the conditions put forth in the Library's Collection Development Policy.
3. The Escondido Public Library reserves the rights to use, retain, display or dispose of any gifts of works of art in any fashion as the Library sees fit. The Library is free to display the donated work of art or not, and to select the location and the manner of display.
4. It may also be determined that if such work of art is no longer appropriate for the collection, the work may be sold, donated to another institution, returned to the donor or disposed of in any other way determined to be in the best interest of the Library. The Library cannot be regarded as liable to the donor if the item is destroyed, damaged or stolen.
5. Art placed on display will be identified by a label which states the artist's name, title of the work, date executed and a donor credit line (if desired).

Temporary Art Exhibits:

In addition to those works donated to or purchased by the Library, the Escondido Art Association exhibits works by artists who have agreed to display their work at the Library for a certain period of time. Artists who wish to temporarily display their art at the library may contact the EAA (Escondido Art Association) for further information. Items displayed are hung in accordance with the Library's available space and are to remain at the Library for a full period of the exhibit. The Library cannot be regarded as liable to the donor if the item is destroyed, damaged or stolen. Works displayed in temporary exhibits may be for sale.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees, November 10, 2011