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## BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

Library Master Plan  
provides a vision for  
a thriving, equitable  
library system | [Page 4](#)

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# KEEPING MEMORIES ALIVE

Mellon Foundation grant  
expands Memory Labs | [Page 3](#)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear library supporter,

Mayor Todd Gloria will release his proposed city budget for the coming fiscal year next month. This is a critical point in the budget cycle for libraries, which have faced years of disinvestment, leading to deteriorating branches, empty bookshelves, and libraries that can't keep up with the demands of their communities.

With your support, the Library Foundation SD can fight for the public library funding our communities require and deserve.

I recently joined Councilmember Raul Campillo to author an op-ed about funding the vision outlined in the Library Master Plan, which the community of library supporters helped us to create ([more on page 3](#)).

We wrote, "Investment in our libraries is a value statement about what we believe is important."

In our expanded library advocacy efforts, we will work to hold all of our elected leaders accountable with an expectation that they back their words of support with actions that adequately fund our libraries. We will contact library advocates over the next few weeks about how you can help ([more on page 6](#)).

Also, look for us to share information about early April's National Library Week. We hope you will join us to celebrate our libraries and their significant impact.

As always, thank you for helping make this critical work possible.

Sincerely,

**Patrick Stewart**  
CEO, Library Foundation SD



Public Technology Services Librarian Catherine Hoang and Special Collections Librarian Carl Adkins use library equipment to digitize older, fragile books.

## MELLON FOUNDATION SUPPORTS EXPANSION OF DIGITAL MEMORY LABS

### Grant allows more library patrons to access, digitize and share videos, audio recordings, photographs, and slides.

The Mellon Foundation awarded the Library Foundation SD a \$350,000 grant that allows the San Diego Public Library to expand Digital Memory Lab services throughout San Diego.

These labs teach patrons to digitize and save memories currently stored on antiquated media, including VHS and Betamax tapes; 8mm film; 8-track, reel-to-reel, and other audio tapes; slides and negatives; and floppy disks.

The donation from the Mellon Foundation, the nation's largest arts and humanities supporter, allows underrepresented communities to share their stories and preserve their

cultural histories and:

- Adds three additional Digital Memory Labs and upgrades existing labs,
- Creates five new pop-up mobile labs,
- Implements an inclusive storytelling project with the San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture,
- Creates workshops to teach personal archival preservation, and
- Helps the library preserve valuable historical resources in its archives.

"Libraries foster conversations about our shared histories," said Library Foundation SD CEO Patrick Stewart. "The Mellon Foundation grant means these conversations can be more inclusive."

Learn more:  
→ [bit.ly/mellon-lfsd](https://bit.ly/mellon-lfsd)



## SAN DIEGO'S LIBRARIES ARE SUFFERING FROM YEARS OF NEGLECT

### Campillo-Stewart op-ed details how Library Master Plan charts a new path.

In November, the City Council approved a new Library Master Plan. In a recent *San Diego Union-Tribune* op-ed, San Diego City Councilmember Raul Campillo and Library Foundation SD CEO Patrick Stewart explained how this plan will carve a new path and provide a blueprint for a thriving, equitable library system.

*We can start the real work now of putting this vision — and real resources — into one of the surest investments to keep calling San Diego "America's finest city."*

--San Diego Union-Tribune

→ Read the op-ed:  
[bit.ly/campillo-stewart-opinion](https://bit.ly/campillo-stewart-opinion)



Ensuring all communities have equitable access to resources is a central focus of the recently approved Library Master Plan.



## FIVE DAYS OF POETRY WILL COMMEMORATE ROBERTY FROST'S 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

**Pulitzer-Prize-winning and recognized poets participating in the March Sesquicentennial Celebration.**

Robert Frost, the nation's most iconic poet, who penned *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening* and *The Road Not Taken*, would turn 150 this March. To celebrate, the Library Foundation is partnering with the Robert Frost Society to bring ten of the nation's most distinguished poets to read and discuss their poems. Participating poets include Pulitzer Prize winner Tracy K. Smith, Ruth Lilly Prize Winner Allison Joseph, Pulitzer Prize Finalist Bruce Weigl, and Guggenheim Fellowship winner Jay Parini. The celebration, from March 20 to 24, features poetry readings, workshops, lectures, and roundtable discussions. All events are free and open to the public.

→ Learn more and register:  
[bit.ly/frost-150](https://bit.ly/frost-150)





# KEY ADVOCACY DATES

ACTION ALERT!	
DATE	ALERT/EVENT
4/12	RELEASE OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET
EARLY MAY	LIBRARY BUDGET HEARINGS (DETAILS TBA)
5/14	REVISED BUDGET RELEASED
6/10	FINAL BUDGET APPROVAL
ANYTIME!	SEND A POSTCARD TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
ANYTIME!	JOIN LIBRARIESTRANSFORMSD COALITION

Stay up-to-date:  
→ [bit.ly/library-advocacy](https://bit.ly/library-advocacy)



# CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS EXPAND THE LIBRARY'S REACH

Dr. Seuss Foundation and United Way help get books and library cards to San Diego's youngest learners.

With Dr. Seuss Foundation support, the San Diego Public Library is partnering with the San Diego Unified School District to provide every student in the district with an EXCEL Student Library Card by 2025. Students with EXCEL cards can use library resources like books, homework help, computers, and online tools. This exciting program reduces barriers that prevent students and families from discovering the library as a free, accessible, and critical resource for literacy and learning.

This spring, the library, Library Foundation SD, and United Way partnered to expand student access to books and library resources. As part of early March's Read Across America Day celebrations, the United Way distributed free books to local students. Library staff were on hand to promote library services like Do Your Homework @ the Library and to enroll students for the EXCEL card.

Learn more:  
→ [bit.ly/sdpl-excel-card](https://bit.ly/sdpl-excel-card)



# LIBRARY SHOP SD

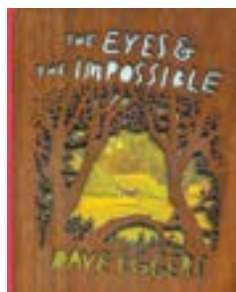
f @LibraryShopSD

## LITERARY-OBSESSIVE, GUILT-FREE SHOPPING!

All proceeds from Shop purchases support San Diego libraries, as well as many local vendors and artisans!

[libraryfoundationsd.org/shop](http://libraryfoundationsd.org/shop)

## BOOKS WE LOVE .....



The Eyes & The Impossible - Deluxe Wood-Bound Edition



Mother, Nature



What you are looking for is in the library



What's Inside a Caterpillar Cocoon?

## GREAT GIFTS .....



The TypeSet Co. Magnetic Message Board



Good Vibrations Can Glass with Lid and Straw



Jiggy Puzzle



Bookish Necklace (variety of messages)

## GIFTS FOR KIDS .....



Momiji Book Shop Series - Collectible Kawaii Toy figures in a Book Shop Theme



Eugy 3D Cardboard Model Kit



Klutz Watercolor Dreams



Drumstick Pencil

## SHE PERSISTED: SALLY RIDE CHELSEA CLINTON IN CONVERSATION WITH ATIA ABAWI

March 15 | 6 pm  
Neil Morgan Auditorium | Central Library @  
Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common

Chelsea Clinton, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the *She Persisted* series, and Atia Abawi, author of *She Persisted: Sally Ride*, will discuss Sally Ride and other inspiring women who rose up against the odds. Audience Q&A and photo line follow the presentation. Books will be pre-signed in advance at this TICKETED EVENT.

→ More info:  
[bit.ly/clinton-sdpl](http://bit.ly/clinton-sdpl)





# COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



“As book bannings and removals from schools increase, history is hidden and denied, LGBTQ+ literature is suppressed, libraries remain a trusted bastion of all literature. This deserves my support.”

“When I was growing up I was at the library several times a week to check out books or do research for school projects. I was an avid reader and enjoyed browsing the stacks. I support the Foundation because I want all children regardless of financial status or ethnicity, background, etc. to have the same opportunities I had as a child. The library is a great equalizer.”



“I believe in libraries! Libraries have been my source for books my whole life and reading has always been my joy. I particularly appreciate the advocacy the Library Foundation does at City Hall, preventing budget cuts and increasing the money given to our libraries. Thank you, thank you!”

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**LIBRARY GIVING DAY**  
April 3

A national day for those who depend on and enjoy public libraries to support their library with a charitable gift. Stay tuned for details.



**NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**  
April 7 - April 13

Join other library lovers to celebrate Right to Read Day, National Library Workers Day, and Take Action for Libraries Day. Stay tuned for details.



**SAN DIEGO BOOK CRAWL 2024**  
April 27 to April 29

Join the Library Shop SD and other independent booksellers for the San Diego Book Crawl. Stay tuned for details.

Follow: [@sdbookcrawl](#) for details



**SPRING INTO STEAM**  
March, April & May | Various library locations

For students aged 9 to 12 years old, Spring Into STEAM's virtual and in-person programs explore distant constellations and galaxies, and discover space exploration technologies.

More: [bit.ly/springintosteam](#)



**SUMMER READING PROGRAM**  
June 1 to August 31 | All library locations

Fight the “summer slide” and keep the children and teens in your life engaged, learning and reading with summer camps, fun programs, and reading incentives.

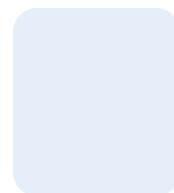
More: [bit.ly/ReadBeyond](#)



**WHERE'S ODI?**  
July 1 to July 31 | All library locations

Join the Library Shop SD for the return of this popular summer program, Where's Odi @ SDPL. Visit all 36 library branches to find the hidden Odi the Coyote and collect a commemorative pin at each branch.

LIBRARY  
FOUNDATION



PO Box 120391  
San Diego, CA 92112

[NAME]  
[ADDRESS]



Read more:  
[bit.ly/charitable-annuity](https://bit.ly/charitable-annuity)

## HIGHER CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES ARE HERE

A Charitable Gift Annuity allows you to support Library Foundation SD and also receive secure, fixed income for life. Established through a simple agreement, a Charitable Gift Annuity can provide you with valuable income, income tax savings, and capital gains tax benefits. Gift annuity rates were increased on January 1, 2024. If you want to know more, please contact Natalie Ganz, Chief Philanthropy and Engagement Officer, at (619) 238-6643 or at [nganz@libraryfoundationsd.org](mailto:nganz@libraryfoundationsd.org).\*

*\*This information was accurate at the time of printing. This information is not legal, financial, or tax advice. Please consult a qualified professional advisor when considering your charitable giving options. Annuities are subject to regulation by the State of California. Payments are not protected or otherwise guaranteed by any government agency or the California Life and Health Insurance Guarantee Association.*

[LibraryFoundationSD.org](https://LibraryFoundationSD.org) | [office@libraryfoundationsd.org](mailto:office@libraryfoundationsd.org)

[f](#) [y](#) [in](#) [@](#) [t](#) @LibraryFoundationSD

330 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101  
(619) 238-6695