

WHAT WE'RE READING

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recommend their top
reads | [Page 6](#)

BUILDING SAN DIEGO'S WORKFORCE

Prebys Foundation
supports Library's work-
readiness efforts | [Page 3](#)



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear library supporter,

As 2025 comes to a close, it's important that we're reminded that despite significant challenges the San Diego Public Library has faced, this year also brought several encouraging signs of joy and momentum, too.

By the time you read this, developer impact fees (DIF) will have been released to complete the Performance Annex expansion project at the City Heights/Weingart branch. This represents a tangible investment in access and equity for the thousands of San Diegans who rely on the Library each year. The project, started with Library Foundation SD support, adds functional spaces such as a lobby, a green room, and a box office, allowing larger, more diverse performances and programming for City Heights and the broader performing arts community. We will share more about this in the spring.

You'll read in these pages that the Library Foundation SD's relationship with funders continues to deepen in articles about grants from Prebys

Foundation, Qualcomm, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Each have made significant investments in our Library's ability to make a real difference for San Diegans. Our mix of funding, from foundations, corporations, and you, affirms our shared belief that libraries are essential to civic infrastructure.

As we approach the City's mid-year budget reviews in December, we know the challenges aren't over, but we will remain steadfast in our commitment to build a fully-funded, fully-open library system—one that reflects the strength and generosity of San Diego itself. Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. We truly can't do it without you.

With gratitude,

Patrick Stewart
CEO, Library Foundation SD

PREBYS FOUNDATION GRANT EXPANDS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

California is in the top five states for teen unemployment, an issue with far-reaching consequences for the state's economy. When a teenager's ability to establish work experience is limited, the chance to develop skills that could improve their future employment prospects are also limited.

The San Diego-based Prebys Foundation awarded \$6 million in grants to 17 regional programs to address this challenge as part of their Youth Workforce: Career Pathways Initiative. The Library Foundation SD received \$450,000 to support the Media Arts Workforce Development Initiative @ The Library, a work readiness program created through a partnership with the Media Arts Center San Diego (MACSD) and the San Diego Public Library.

The program prepares young adults ages 18 to 26 for careers in video production, multimedia art, and design. The first part of the program is a paid 6-week training program in video and

multimedia design and production at the IDEA Lab at the City Heights/Weingart Library, with hands-on classes taught by MACSD Teaching Artists in topics including cinematography, camera basics, audio production, lighting, art direction, and editing.

Participants can then complete an internship in a City of San Diego department, working on a variety of projects applying their new skills, including creating promotional videos, developing social media content, working on community oral storytelling projects, and supporting IDEA Lab and makerspace programming.

By providing training in the latest media arts skills, methods, and technology, this program opens the door for youth to a promising future in the dynamic field of video production and multimedia arts, and expands the local creative economy.

Read more:

→ bit.ly/lfsd-prebys



Interns Carlos Tenorio (left) and Moisés Mandujano.

SDSU STUDENTS HELP BOOST BANNED BOOKS WEEK ENGAGEMENT

Library Foundation SD partnered with the School of Journalism and Media Studies at San Diego State University to engage young adults in Banned Books Week. Eleven seniors, under the Glen M. Broom Center for Professional Development in Public Relations, led a communication campaign from Oct. 5 through 11 targeting 18-to-25-year-old San Diegans.

"This project was a powerful real-world application of everything I have learned at SDSU," said team member Allie Amorde. "I'm looking forward to

translating the skills I gained to my career after I graduate in December."

Through qualitative research, the team found that Gen Z cares about free expression, but did not have enough knowledge about censorship to fight it.

The team produced tactics, including filming social media content, hosting a booth at the La Jolla Open Air Market, putting banned books in Little Free Libraries, and creating a digital advocacy toolkit.

"Our work starts with talking to the community and hearing their perspectives. My goal for my capstone students is to teach aspiring professionals to use their communication skills for good," said the course professor Dr. Kaye Sweetser.

The team's efforts ignited participation in Banned Books Week. They drove a 93.2% increase in Instagram engagement within the target age group.

Read the students' Banned Books Week tool kit:

→ bit.ly/lfsd-toolkit



A special event on the Central Library's ninth floor Qualcomm Dome Terrace.

QUALCOMM HELPS MAKE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FREE AND ACCESSIBLE TO ALL SAN DIEGANS

From the earliest days of the Library Foundation, Qualcomm has been a steadfast and generous partner, providing flexible grant funding for essential Library programs and resources. The latest grant from Qualcomm, awarded in April, will support a variety of early literacy, lifelong learning, and workforce development programs.

Qualcomm's support enables the Library Foundation SD to respond to the community's changing needs—from college preparation assistance and access to digital tools to entrepreneurship resources and science and technology workshops. This flexibility was especially helpful in the early days of the pandemic, when there was a new, urgent need for technology access.

Qualcomm funds allowed the San Diego Public Library to respond quickly, providing laptops to those in need, increasing internet access, and expanding the digital library.

A trusted community leader, Qualcomm was an early supporter of the campaign to build the Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, championing the importance of investing in libraries as cornerstones of civic life. Today, visitors to the Central Library can take in the views of downtown from the ninth floor Qualcomm Dome Terrace, which regularly hosts fun community programs such as Swing Dance Under the Dome.

The Library Foundation is grateful for the enduring partnership of Qualcomm, which, for more than 20 years, has supported thousands of San Diegans as they develop literacy skills, discover new passions, and connect with community—all at the Library.

Don't miss the next chance to learn some new steps and dance on the Qualcomm Dome Terrace on Monday, Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

LIBRARY SHOP SD

f @LibraryShopSD

WHAT WE'RE READING

Here are some of our current favorites. Feel free to drop by the Library Shop @ the Central Library or Mission Hills to chat about what you're reading, or for a book recommendation. All proceeds support San Diego Public Libraries and many local vendors and artisans!

libraryfoundationsd.org/shop

***The Bewitching* by Silvia Moreno-Garcia**

“A spine-tingling horror thriller that entrances from the very start. Three mysterious tales of disappearances across the 1900s connect with our main protagonist leading to a spooky tale that is sure to have you fearful of every shadow and sound of the night.”

Recommended by Library Shop SD Bookseller
Miguel Covarrubias



***Cat Nap* written and illustrated by Brian Lies**

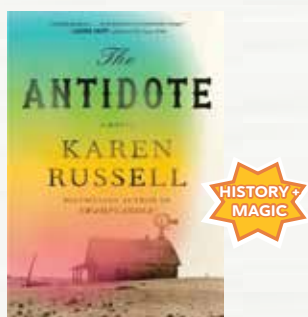
“In this new children's picture book, Lies uses acrylic paint, wood, clay, stained glass, and other mediums to tell the story of a gray kitten who can pop in and out of classic museum art pieces. The kitten follows a mouse in a chase that spans dimensions and will leave young readers in awe.”

Recommended by Library Shop SD Book Buyer
Sarah Bradley

***The Antidote* by Karen Russell**

“Historical Fiction? Magical Realism? A story of the Dust Bowl and the United States that you never encountered in History class. Both laugh- and thought-provoking—I can't get it out of my mind! Treat yourself.”

Recommended by Library Shop SD Gift Buyer
Holly Renaudo



LIBRARY SHOP TALK SUMMER BROUGHT OUT A SUN-SOAKED COMMUNITY OF BOOK LOVERS

THANK YOU FOR JOINING
THE SHOP THIS SUMMER
TO CELEBRATE THE POWER
OF THE LIBRARY AND
READING!

A NOTE FROM LIBRARY
SHOP SD EVENT
COORDINATOR
AC CLARK



Comedy legend Larry Charles (second from left) joined Library Shop SD staff at the 2025 San Diego Book Festival. He signed copies of his book, “Comedy Samurai” at the Shop's booth. Charles is also known for directing the movies Borat, Bruno, and The Dictator. He was the original writer/producer of the TV series Seinfeld and director of the series Curb Your Enthusiasm.

In July, thousands of hopefuls began their annual hunt to find Odi the Coyote in libraries across San Diego... with 191 incredible Where's Odi? participants making it to all 37 branches.

That's just under 1% of Odi hunters earning the title ODI GRAND CHAMPION—a more rarified rate than acceptance to Harvard!

One thing's for sure: those kids are going places.

Sending summer out with a bang, readers raced to the first KPBS San Diego Book Festival on August 23. A dazzling lineup of presenters included Stacey Abrams, Larry Charles, Dan Santat, and more. With over 100 local and national authors and more than 8,000 readers attending, we firmly believe the best spot in the whole place was the Library Shop SD's booth, where we had a gas trading jokes with Larry himself.

Up next!

→ **Grand opening of our new Mission Hills location! See you at 925 W. Washington Street on Dec. 1.**



Graduates of the Library's Career Online High School from the May 2025 graduation ceremony in the Central Library's Neil Morgan Auditorium.

CARNEGIE INVESTS IN SAN DIEGO WITH GRANT TO EXPAND COLLEGE READINESS PROGRAMS

In June, the Carnegie Corporation of New York named the Library Foundation SD one of 11 grant recipients of its national Libraries as Pillars of Education and Democracy program. This two-year initiative builds on Carnegie's renewed commitment to libraries as trusted public institutions that help reduce political polarization. The \$450,000 grant will expand two

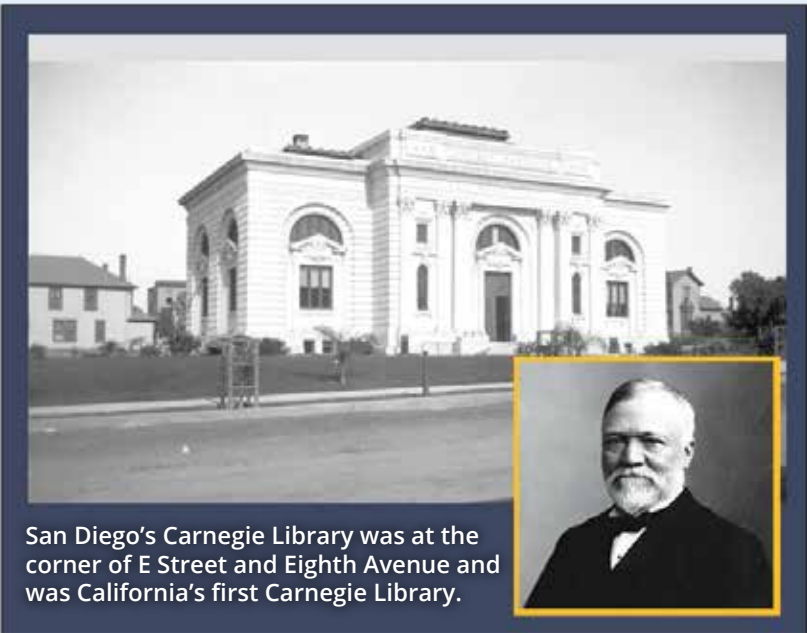
Library college readiness and access programs: DiscoverU and the Adult High School Diploma (AHSD) program.

DiscoverU helps youth prepare for college and gain life management skills. Through interactive, in-person workshops, students learn about college admissions, prepare for SAT or ACT, get financial aid assistance, and receive tutoring. DiscoverU

also offers life skills workshops that teach teens the skills they need to navigate adulthood, including healthy cooking, independent living, and planning for the future.

The AHSD program offers adult students the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma. Participants take classes online and receive support from the Library,

including access to unlimited tutoring, guidance from Academic Success Coaches, technology tools, and services that support non-native English speakers. Through the two AHSD paths, Career Online High School and Excel Adult High School, students can earn a career certificate in addition to their diploma or take electives in topics that prepare students for further study.



San Diego's Carnegie Library was at the corner of E Street and Eighth Avenue and was California's first Carnegie Library.

CARNEGIE'S LIBRARY SUPPORT IN SAN DIEGO SPANS 123 YEARS

The Carnegie Corporation of New York gifted \$10,000 grants to hundreds of library systems nationwide in October, including the San Diego Public Library. The grant was in recognition for the libraries once considered Carnegie Libraries.

"Our founder, Andrew Carnegie, who championed the free public library movement of the late 19th century, described libraries as 'cradles of democracy' that 'strengthen the democratic idea, the equality of the citizen, and the royalty of man,'" said Dame Louise Richardson, president of Carnegie. "We still believe this and are delighted to celebrate our connection to the libraries he founded."

Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries in the United States between 1886 and 1917, including San Diego's Carnegie Library in 1902. This unexpected grant allows the Library Foundation SD the flexibility to use the funds where they are needed the most.

DONOR-ADVISED FUNDS OFFER AN EASY CHARITABLE GIVING OPTION

The Winder-Steeds support equal access at the library.

Janet and Anne Winder-Steed believe that access to knowledge is the key to empathy and understanding. That's why they support the Library Foundation SD through a donor-advised fund: to ensure the San Diego Public Library remains a free, accessible resource for all members of the community.

Library Foundation SD donors for more than two decades, Janet and Anne value the important role the library plays as a space without judgment—a space where you can explore perspectives outside of your own, feel accepted and recognized, and find community.

"You can feel safe at the library. Your life is reflected back to you [through books], so you know you're okay," they said.

Janet and Anne's donations support programs such as Books Unbanned, which gives young adults living anywhere in the U.S. free access to the Library's online collection of the most frequently banned books, combating censorship and safeguarding intellectual freedom.

For ease, convenience, and tax benefits, the Winder-Steeds give through a donor-advised fund (DAF). DAFs are charitable giving accounts that let individuals set aside money for future donations. Donors could get immediate tax deductions when they contribute to the fund, and the funds can be invested and grow over time.* DAFs can make it easier to manage your charitable giving, especially if giving with assets such as stock.



Anne (left) and Janet Winder-Steed.



Donor support is crucial to Library early literacy programs like 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten.

IT'S ALWAYS THE SEASON TO SUPPORT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

All gifts to the Library Foundation SD make a difference. In addition to outright gifts of cash, below are four ways to provide financial support to the San Diego Public Library that could come with income tax, capital gains tax, and/or other tax benefits. *

1. By making a gift with appreciated securities, which include stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares that have increased in value, donors may avoid or defer tax on the gain and may also enjoy a charitable income tax deduction.
2. Qualified charitable distributions, also known as QCDs or charitable IRA rollovers, are an option for individuals aged 70 ½ or older to make a direct, tax-free transfer from a traditional or Roth IRA to Library Foundation SD while satisfying their required minimum distribution.
3. Donor advised funds allow donors to make contributions to a fund, potentially receive an immediate income tax deduction, and then recommend grants to qualified charities such as Library Foundation SD. Donors can also name Library Foundation SD as a beneficiary of the remaining balance in a fund at the end of life.
4. Charitable gift annuities allow Library supporters to make a gift, and, in return, receive a secure, fixed income for life, part of which may be income tax free. There is flexibility to name up to two income recipients, and you can defer payments to secure a source of income for the future.

**This information is not tax or legal advice. Please consult a qualified professional advisor when considering your giving options.*

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Thank you to these supporters
who have included the Library
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More: bit.ly/Carnegie-Society.



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[illegible]

❖ = deceased
 🌳 = at the San Diego Foundation

SUPPORTER NOTES

In this age of on-line misinformation and disinformation libraries and librarians can still be trusted as sources of responsible facts and knowledge.

Michael H.

Libraries are safe places for people to go. I trust the library!

Linda L.

The library makes information, entertainment and technology available for EVERYONE!

Heather G.

Library services are vital to every community, vital for growth + development, vital for access equitably to all people. Thankyw for all yw do!

Amy H.

Libraries are a vital part of a healthy city.

Kelly + Zack T.

UPCOMING EVENTS



LIBRARY SHOP MISSION HILLS GRAND OPENING
Monday, Dec. 1 to Sunday, Dec. 7 |
925 W. Washington St., San Diego, CA 92103

Check out San Diego’s newest book store in the former Mission Hills Library. Register for the Library Shop newsletter to learn the latest.
Register: bit.ly/libraryshopMH-sdpl



CORY DOCTOROW TALKS ENSHITTIFICATION
7 pm on Monday, Dec. 1 |
Library Shop Mission Hills

Doctorow points to how and why a handful of profitable companies are slowly breaking the internet, and offers a path that we can take to de-enshittification online and off.
Learn more: bit.ly/doctorow-sdpl



GIVING TUESDAY
Tuesday, Dec. 2

Giving Tuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to use their generosity to remain connected and support their communities and their libraries.
Make a gift: bit.ly/lfsd-giving-tuesday



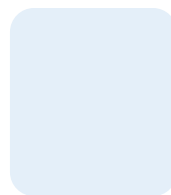
THE SIXTH ANNUAL SHORTIES: A VIRTUAL AWARDS GALA

6:30 pm on Thursday, Dec. 4 | Central Library’s Neil Morgan Auditorium
The Matchbook Story Contest winner is revealed at San Diego’s shortest, quirkiest awards ceremony.
Learn more: bit.ly/shorties-lfsd



MARY KUBICA WITH T. GREENWOOD
7 pm on Monday, Feb. 16 |
Library Shop Mission Hills

Along with Adventures by the Book, the Library Shop welcomes bestselling author Mary Kubica. In conversation with T. Greenwood, Kubica will discuss the novel “It’s Not Her,” about a serene lakeside vacation which takes a deadly turn.
Learn more: bit.ly/kubica-sdpl



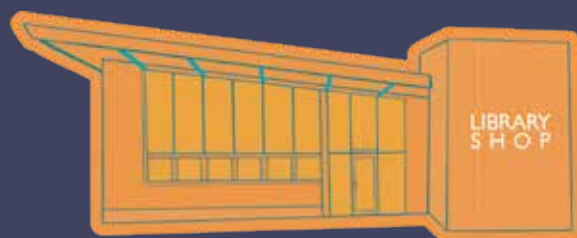
PO Box 120391
San Diego, CA 92112

[NAME]
[ADDRESS]

LIBRARY SHOP MISSION HILLS COMING DEC. 1

Don't miss the Dec. 1 grand opening of San Diego's newest neighborhood bookstore—Library Shop Mission Hills. The second location of the Library Shop will revitalize the site of the former Mission Hills Library branch which closed in 2019. The shelves at 925 W. Washington St. will once again be filled with books, recommendations, and literary delights.

Opening week celebrations will include author visits, storytimes, discount deals, and games. Proceeds of sales at the Library Shop support all 37 branches of the San Diego Public Library.



**Learn more opening week details
and register for the Library Shop
newsletter:**

→ bit.ly/libraryshopMH-sdpl



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