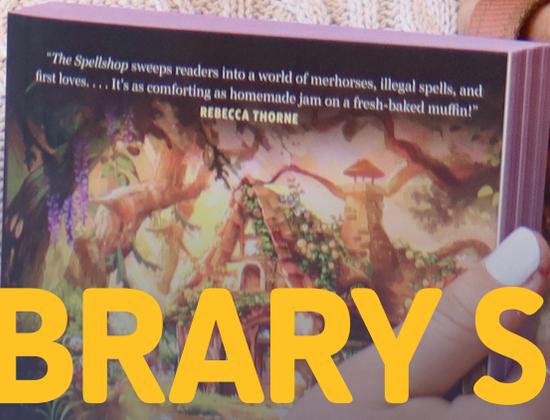

**LOGAN HEIGHTS
DIGITAL MEMORY LAB**

Mellon Foundation Grant
Creates Valuable Community
Resources | [Page 11](#)



**LIBRARY SHOP
OPENS IN
MISSION HILLS**

New Location Returns
Books to Former Library
Site | [Pages 6 - 7](#)





Patrick Stewart takes a photo of guests at the press conference for the opening of Library Shop Mission Hills.

Dear Library Supporter,

We've heard this song before. The City of San Diego is requesting mid-year budget reductions for several City departments, including the San Diego Public Library. The budget deficit for fiscal year 2027 will also be larger than previous forecasts. Despite proposed cuts to the department, we are encouraged by seeing Library leadership and staff continue to show an unwavering commitment to the patrons they serve every day.

This annual exercise should not be a race to the bottom to see how little we can fund the Library while still claiming it is serving every San Diegan with excellence.

Library advocates and supporters make it clear each year that programs, services, and resources delivered by the Library are essential community assets. Your voice is an important part of ensuring that this sentiment is heard.

In this update, you'll read about opportunities the Library Foundation SD received to pilot, enhance, and scale vital Library programs. Your support makes this happen and lets the Library know how important they are to your community. I'm thankful to all Library Foundation SD supporters and advocates who join us to let City leaders know how important it is to their community.

The San Diego Public Library, the Library Foundation SD, and patrons across the region are grateful for your support.

With gratitude,

Patrick Stewart
CEO, Library Foundation SD



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST TRUSTEE KARA SIEGEL

Library Foundation SD is pleased to announce Kara Siegel as our newest Board Trustee.

Kara has been a dedicated Finance Committee member for several years, and we're thrilled to welcome her expanded leadership role on our Board. She brings a wealth of experience in law, finance, and community leadership. She is a Deputy Attorney General with the California Department of Justice, representing the state, its agencies, and officers in civil suits, particularly those involving state-tax issues. Kara has a Bachelor's in English from the University of Chicago, a Master's in Business Administration with an emphasis in finance from Washington State University, and a JD from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. She is

admitted to practice in California and New York.

Kara is a past board member of Lawyers Club of San Diego and current co-chair of its Bench Bar Committee. She decided in 2024 to take up tennis and is now an enthusiastic member of the Balboa Tennis Club.

Kara's years of service demonstrate her commitment to justice, education, and community access. Her financial expertise has been invaluable as we've expanded programs serving San Diego's most underserved residents, and her Board leadership will help us reach even more communities.

Please join us in welcoming Kara to the Board!

SAN DIEGANS DESERVE A FULL-TIME LIBRARY SYSTEM AVAILABLE 37/7

In January, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria gave the annual State of the City address outlining his proposals and priorities for the coming year.

His address follows a difficult budgetary cycle for fiscal year 2026. The San Diego Public Library was conspicuously absent in Mayor Gloria's comments about building, transforming, and investing in San Diego.

While professing to be transformative, the current budget for the San Diego Public Library is sadly similar to its budget decades ago. The City of San

Diego is not moving forward when it comes to funding for libraries, parks, and arts in San Diego. **We are asking for a full-time Library department that keeps all 37 locations open seven days a week – 37/7.**

Libraries and Library staff are on the front lines serving unhoused and under-resourced individuals. It is imperative that funding discussions to support these vulnerable populations include support for the Library, where several levels of support are already available.

We encourage Library advocates, champions, and supporters to continue to come out and support our Library system as it needs all the help we can provide. We are working towards the goal of returning the Library department to full-time status. Every day a Library location is closed, there are lost opportunities for students, job seekers, families, and neighbors who depend on the San Diego Public Library.

Become a Library advocate today by signing up for our advocacy alerts and showing up for our Libraries.

→ **Advocate for your Library:**
→ bit.ly/library-advocacy



TAKE ACTION!

SEND POSTCARDS TO CITY LEADERS

Mail a postcard demanding a full-time Library system for San Diegans. Postcards are available for pick up in our two Library Shop locations:



Sign up for advocacy alerts:
bit.ly/library-advocacy

Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common |

330 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101

- Monday & Tuesday 11:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday to Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Library Shop Mission Hills |

925 W. Washington St., San Diego, CA 92103

- Monday to Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.



Library Foundation SD Database Assistant Laura Camarillo (center) helps advocates complete their postcards.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Below are key advocacy dates and opportunities to advocate for the Library.

Mayor Releases FY 2027 Proposed Budget
Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Mayor Presents Proposed Budget to City Council
Monday, April 20, 2026

Attend Committee Hearing on the City Budget
Monday, May 4, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Releases May Revision to Proposed Budget
Wednesday, May 13, 2026

Attend City Council Meeting for Public Input on the Proposed Budget
Monday, May 18, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

City Council Final Budget Modifications Due to the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA)
Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Release of IBA Final Report on Recommended Council Modifications to Budget
Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Budget Review Committee Meeting on Budget
Friday, June 5, 2026

City Council Approves Budget and Modifications
Tuesday, June 9, 2026

LIBRARY SHOP TALK

MISSION (HILLS) ACCOMPLISHED: LIBRARY SHOP MISSION HILLS IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Library Shop SD staff (left to right) Faye Hunt, Holly Renaudo, Hollis Dixon, Scott Ehrig-Burgess, Sarah Bradley, and AC Clark prepare Library Shop Mission Hills to welcome the community.

A NOTE FROM LIBRARY SHOP MANAGER SCOTT EHRIG-BURGESS

In December, Library Shop SD opened a second location in Mission Hills at 925 W. Washington St. This new endeavor revitalizes one of the community's favorite mid-century designed buildings and also brings the neighborhood its first full-service independent bookstore in 25 years. Library Foundation SD is proud to bring books back to the former San Diego Public Library building that served the community from 1961 to 2019.

Getting the building ready required a lot of late nights—who knew drilling into concrete would be so hard? And why, oh why, did they use so, so, many carpet staples back in the day? We also worked carefully to honor the bones and the history of the building. Customers who grew up with the Mission Hills branch as their Library will notice the original bookshelves still in place and frequently note that the Children's section is right where it's been since 1961. Even the name on the side of the building uses the same font as the sign it replaced.

Our hard work paid off, we hit our deadline and opened at 10 a.m. on Dec 1, 2025 – thank you to Councilmember Whitburn and his staff for hosting a press conference to welcome us to the neighborhood. Our first night, we



hosted author Cory Doctorow and 150 of his fans to discuss his latest book, *Enshitification*. Since opening, we've hosted storytimes, book clubs, local authors, a baby shower, trivia nights, and Team Library Shop plans to do much more in the coming years.

Our mission at the new Library Shop is the same as our first Shop, but a few things are very different:

- Most obviously, Library Shop Mission Hills is three times the size of our Central Library Shop, which means more space for books—many more books than we've ever carried before.
- Library Shop Mission Hills Shop is inside a former Library, which has led to a few confusing conversations, but also led one young customer to exclaim 'whoa' when he was told the books his mother had purchased were not due back in three weeks but were his to keep.
- The Library Shop at Central has a reputation for being 'Cat Forward.' Library Shop Mission Hills definitely goes to the dogs—seriously, we have dog treats at the register for your canine companions. So if you're already a loyal customer at our first Library Shop please drop by our second location, but leave your cat at home.

Library Shop Mission Hills will participate in its first **San Diego Book Crawl** along with the Library Shop at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common.

Come crawl with us **April 25-27**, and you will not only be supporting San Diego's independent bookstores, all Library Shop proceeds benefit the San Diego Public Library system. It's a win-win!



WHAT LIBRARY SHOP STAFF ARE READING

Here are our current favorites. Remember, all proceeds support San Diego Public Libraries, local vendors, and artisans! Follow the links for Library Shop SD's latest:

- Events
- Online shopping
- Newsletter sign up

libraryfoundationsd.org/shop



Death Takes Me by Cristina Rivera Garza

“A thrilling murder mystery that perfectly explores feminism, the patriarchy, language, poetry, and literary criticism. Disturbing and at times eerie, the story centers on a detective, her partner, a professor, and the serial murderer(s) after various men are found castrated and dead.”

Recommended by Bookseller Miguel Covarrubias



A Perfect Place by Matt de la Peña

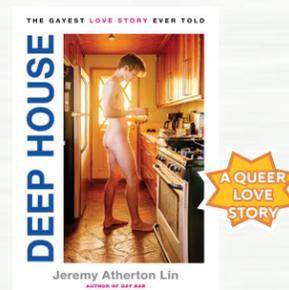
“This picture book by a local San Diego author teaches young readers that sometimes perfection can be suffocating and exclusive. This message reminds me of the library, a place which is perfect because everyone is welcome and everyone belongs—imperfections and all. Available in English and Spanish!”

Recommended by Book Buyer Sarah Bradley

DEEP HOUSE: The Gayest Love Story Ever Told by Jeremy Atherton Lin

“This true queer love story is set before the legalization of marriage equality. Undeterred, two men fight to build a home in California, forcing one to overstay his visa. Their love flourishes despite all the legal hurdles.”

Recommended by Bookseller Miguel Covarrubias



MEET OUR NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL & OPERATIONS OFFICER LINDSAY COOPER MARTIN

We are excited to welcome Lindsay Cooper Martin as our Chief Financial & Operations Officer.

Lindsay brings over 20 years of experience in both consulting and organizational leadership roles in the cultural, human rights, and social and economic justice sectors. Her lifelong love of books, language, culture, and community, combined with her experience brought her to the Library Foundation SD for an opportunity to be part of the team that makes sure San Diegans will continue to have a best-in-class library system well into the future.

She previously held leadership roles at ACLU, Hammer Museum at UCLA, and The Ohio State University overseeing long-range planning, organizational

development, finance, human resources, grantmaking operations, governance, administration, retail, and technology functions. Lindsay also led organization-wide efforts to foster belonging, equity, and radical inclusion at every level of internal and external operations.

She has degrees in Political Science-Public Service and Art History from UC Davis. She serves on the board of Planet Word in Washington, D.C., the only museum in the country dedicated to renewing and inspiring a love of words and language, and chairs its governance committee.

Welcome, Lindsay, to the Library Foundation team!



“Libraries are part of the essential fabric of communities, democracy, and America itself. I saw a hand transcribed, duct tape bound copy of Tolken’s *Lord of the Rings* at Libri Prohibiti in Prague several years ago that had circulated “underground” during Soviet control, passed between dissidents in secret. It made me realize how lucky we were to have books readily available and that our government provides them for free in libraries across the country.”

— Lindsay Cooper Martin

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY

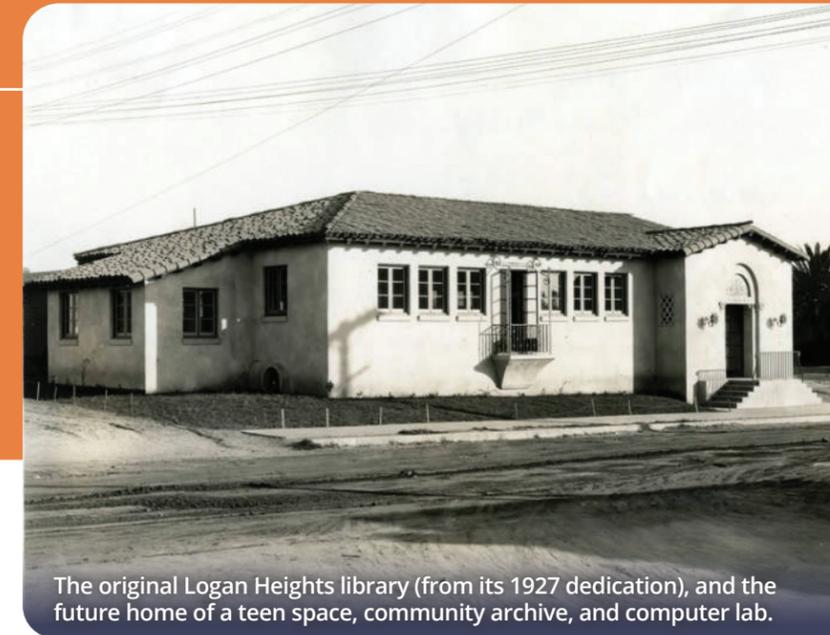
Tucked into the 8th floor of the Central Library is San Diego Public Library's award-winning adult literacy program. READ/San Diego is a free service aimed to stop the intergenerational cycle of illiteracy and **support the 560,000 low literacy San Diegan adults who need to grow their reading and writing skills** to meet everyday needs, and pursue better lives for themselves and their families.

By providing one-on-one tutoring, group learning sessions, and family literacy activities, READ has helped more than 22,000 adults improve literacy skills and subsequently read their first book. This helps participants find employment, register to vote, and support their children's education. Last year, the program served 196 adult learners with the support of 104 volunteers, hosted 41 family literacy events, and provided 2,583 books for participants' home libraries.

With support from Library Foundation SD donors, READ empowers multiple generations to learn, connect, and dream. One participant attended family literacy programs with her grandson shortly after moving to the U.S. from Mexico. Through shared experiences like reading, crafts, and educational programs, they strengthened their English literacy skills and family bond. READ helped her gain confidence in reading and writing, and helped her grandson recover academically from the pandemic. They plan to write a children's book to inspire other families.

Volunteer tutors are crucial to the program's success. Tutors work closely with participants and help them achieve their goals, whether that is learning the alphabet, earning a diploma, or becoming a citizen. Currently, 21 learners are waiting to be paired with a volunteer tutor.

Learn more/volunteer:
→ bit.ly/read-san-diego



The original Logan Heights library (from its 1927 dedication), and the future home of a teen space, community archive, and computer lab.

LOGAN HEIGHTS PROJECT WILL PRESERVE COMMUNITY HISTORY

Exciting developments are underway at the former Logan Heights Library building, which has been vacant since 2009, when a larger Library opened! Built nearly a century ago in 1927, the historic structure will soon undergo renovations and be transformed into a multi-use community building that will serve as a teen space, community archive, and computer lab.

A new Digital Memory Lab will be at the center of this community hub, funded by the Library Foundation SD and a Mellon Foundation grant. Outfitted with state-of-the-art technology and digitization equipment, the Digital Memory Lab will teach patrons how to access, digitize, and share information and memories stored on antiquated media, converting these resources into accessible digital formats. The Lab will also help facilitate research, engage local youth in internship and workforce opportunities, and offer programming that promotes intergenerational exchange.

One of three Digital Memory Labs to be developed in San Diego Public Libraries with Mellon Foundation funding, the Logan Heights Lab will play an important role in safeguarding historical, cultural, and personal memories by providing a dedicated space for the curation and management of digital archives. The Lab will help bridge the digital divide and expand access to specialized technology to all community members.

Read more about Digital Labs and the Mellon Foundation grant:
→ bit.ly/mellon-lfsd



Library Director Misty Jones (left) and READ Administrator Nicole Settle (right) with program graduate Neimo Ali.



PO Box 120391
San Diego, CA 92112



[NAME]
[ADDRESS]

UPCOMING EVENTS UPCOMING EVENTS



LIBRARY GIVING DAY

Wednesday, April 1

A national day of Library support through charitable giving. Stay tuned for details on ways to give.



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Sunday, April 19 to Saturday, April 25

Mychal Threats, the new host of *Reading Rainbow*, is Honorary Chair of this national celebration of the impact of libraries.



2026 BOOK CRAWL

Saturday, April 25 to Monday, April 27

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

Learn more: bit.ly/book-crawl-sd



WHERE'S ODI?

Wednesday, July 1 to Friday, July 31

Join the search to find Library mascot Odi the Coyote at all 37 locations. Earn prizes and explore the Library's diverse services.

Learn more: bit.ly/wheresodi

