

PATRONS RALLY AGAINST LIBRARY BUDGET CUTS

GRANT EXPANDS EARLY LITERACY SERVICES

Funds from Dr. Seuss Foundation and San Diego Foundation
Support Children from Birth to Age 5, see Page 4



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Library supporter,

I am grateful to the thousands of San Diego Public Library patrons who advocated for Library funding this year. Those who shared their stories, contacted elected officials, attended meetings, submitted public comments, or sent funds in support of our advocacy efforts, ensured that the City's decision-makers heard how the Library benefits their families, neighbors, and communities. *Selections from the estimated 15,000 postcards that were sent to elected officials are on the opposite page.*

In January, when Mayor Todd Gloria outlined his priorities for improving neighborhood services and public safety during his State of the City address, the San Diego Public Library was notably absent. Later in the year, the Mayor's proposed budget again overlooked Libraries as part of the solution to many of San Diego's most pressing challenges. Despite his stated focus on affordability, the Mayor's proposal called for significant cuts to the Library, which is the region's largest provider of free educational, cultural and community services.

In response, Library Foundation SD and Library advocates told elected leaders that cuts to the San Diego Public Library are not simply reductions to one City department—they are cuts to arts and culture, neighborhood services, homeless services, youth opportunities, public safety, and San Diego's future.

The Fiscal Year 2027 budget process was exceptionally challenging, but in the end, the \$1.2 million restored to the Library's budget prevented San Diego from becoming a five-day-a-week Library system.

We will continue to advocate for a full-time Library department where all 37 locations are open seven days a week. This is a goal we believe will be achieved through public engagement, strategic partnerships, and philanthropy. Together, we will continue to remind elected leaders of the indispensable role Libraries play in our City and how we expect them to fund and protect these vital community assets.



Patrick Stewart
CEO, Library Foundation SD



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Public Library Director;
Patrick Stewart, Library
Foundation SD CEO

POSTCARDS FROM PATRONS

Dear Mayor Gloria,
The San Diego Public Library is critical infrastructure for neighborhoods across the City and requires sustained funding to meet residents' growing needs. Research shows that funding public libraries reduces crime, improves educational outcomes, and expands access to jobs and economic opportunity. As City leaders set budget priorities, our Library department must be treated as essential - not optional.

Mayor Gloria,
The library is at the heart of our community. It's a pillar of a strong healthy society. Please prioritize this. Keep funding it!

Please,
Sincerely,

Dear Mayor Gloria,
The San Diego Public Library is critical infrastructure for neighborhoods across the City and requires sustained funding to meet residents' growing needs. Research shows that funding public libraries reduces crime, improves educational outcomes, and expands access to jobs and economic opportunity. As City leaders set budget priorities, our Library department must be treated as essential - not optional.

I've been a library patron since I got my first card at age 6 - books opened an entire world to me. Please keep funding arts + libraries. This is the core of civilization. Please, put the money where the books are!

Sincerely,

Dear Mayor Gloria,
The San Diego Public Library is critical infrastructure for neighborhoods across the City and requires sustained funding to meet residents' growing needs. Research shows that funding public libraries reduces crime, improves educational outcomes, and expands access to jobs and economic opportunity. As City leaders set budget priorities, our Library department must be treated as essential - not optional.

Please don't make us do this every year! Thriving communities need libraries. Period! Thank you, Emily

Please, put the money where the books are!

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Funding libraries brings good Karma

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My little boys love the library and feel so sad each day it's closed, please keep our libraries funded!

Please, put the money where the books are!

Sincerely, Logan

Paid for by
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Paid for by
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mayor Todd G
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Paid for by
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

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Don't cut the budget! Why?!?
- Sita
San Diego resident
Please put the money where the books are!

Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Paid for by
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

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I use the library every week. My daughter checks out at least 5 books a week.

Mayor Todd Gloria

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We need funding for our libraries not just for our economy - but our youth and elders who need access to these resources! Keep funding our libraries!!!

Please, put the money where the books are!

Sincerely,

Paid for by
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mayor Gloria,
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From one Todd to another, Books are important! Please reinstate the library budget.

Please, put the money where the books are!

Sincerely,

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Libraries are safe havens for us San Diegans!!

Please, put the money where the books are!

Sincerely,

Paid for by
LIBRARY FOUNDATION

Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mayor Gloria,
Please stand up for the San Diego Public Library and its patrons.

No civilization can thrive without public libraries

In a year when libraries face the loss of federal funding, I am asking for a library system that helps make my community more educated, connected, engaged and prepared to succeed.

Sincerely,

Please, put the money where the books are!

Sincerely,

Dear Mayor Gloria,
The San Diego Public Library is critical infrastructure for neighborhoods across the City and requires sustained funding to meet residents' growing needs. Research shows that funding public libraries reduces crime, improves educational outcomes, and expands access to jobs and economic opportunity. As City leaders set budget priorities, our Library department must be treated as essential - not optional.

C'mon man! Libraries are essential!

Please, put the money where the books are!

Sincerely,

Mayor Todd Gloria

City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mayor Gloria,
The San Diego Public Library is critical infrastructure for neighborhoods across the City and requires sustained funding to meet residents' growing needs. Research shows that funding public libraries reduces crime, improves educational outcomes, and expands access to jobs and economic opportunity. As City leaders set budget priorities, our Library department must be treated as essential - not optional.

Please fund our libraries!

I use my local library frequently. Public libraries are so important for our communities!

Please, put the money where the books are!

Sincerely,

Mayor Todd Gloria

City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Please keep libraries open 7 days a week. It is such an important community resource - please!

Mayor Todd Gloria
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 11th floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Thinking of you
AS YOU PLAN TO CUT THE BUDGET
for the San Diego Public Library

Wishing you would
FUND THE LIBRARY
because budget cuts will reduce hours and services

Greetings
From a
LIBRARY PATRON
who wants you to put the money where the books are.

GREETINGS FROM
A LIBRARY PATRON
WHO WANTS A SEVEN DAY A WEEK
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Wish you were giving
MORE FUNDS
to the San Diego Public Library

READY TO LEARN GRANT INVESTS IN EARLY LITERACY

Dr. Seuss Foundation and San Diego Foundation grant expands access to early literacy opportunities.



When young children are exposed to books, language and hands-on learning, they are more prepared for school and more likely to succeed academically and in life. Children benefit even more when parents and caregivers have the tools and confidence to support learning at home. The Library's popular early literacy program, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, does just that by helping pre-readers build language skills through books, songs, and play-based learning. Since its inception in 2017, this program has served over 23,000 families by promoting daily reading habits and empowering caregivers to become their child's first teachers.

Thanks to the Dr. Seuss Foundation and San Diego Foundation, even more children and families will have access to early literacy programs throughout San Diego. The two foundations jointly awarded \$2

million in grants to 38 organizations in San Diego County through two early literacy initiatives: Ready to Learn and Bright Futures. Library Foundation SD is proud to be a recipient of a \$60,000 Ready to Learn Grant to support the Library's critical work in creating and nurturing early literacy pathways for our community's youngest learners.

Through an expanded 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, the Library will provide additional kindergarten readiness workshops, inclusive literacy support for families, and new STEM learning opportunities.

Interactive kindergarten readiness workshops focus on foundational skills including letter identification, alphabet knowledge, listening and attention skills, fine motor skills, and familiarity with classroom

routines. Caregivers participate with their children and receive strategies and take-home materials to reinforce learning at home.

A new series of STEM programs for children under 5 will encourage play-based exploration and introduce age-appropriate science, technology, engineering, and math concepts that foster early numeracy, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

Grant funding also supports training for Youth Services Librarians and Library staff so they are able to incorporate early literacy principles and caregiver engagement strategies into storytimes. This program is also designed to connect storytimes with the science of early learning and build Library staff confidence in leading engaging programs for children and caregivers.

Library staff go through a series of self-paced online learning modules, attend hands-on workshops, observe storytimes, and complete reflection assignments. They learn how to integrate early learning strategies, such as using rhymes, singing songs, and breaking down sounds, which is a fun, accessible way to familiarize children with the sound and rhythm of language. Staff then design

and present storytimes to their peers to refine their presentation abilities and feel more confident in their roles.

The generous investment by the Dr. Seuss Foundation and San Diego Foundation will help Library staff deliver high-quality and consistent early literacy programs across San Diego, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to develop strong literacy skills and a love of learning at the Library.



CITY BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW OAK PARK LIBRARY

Library Renovations and Construction Projects are in Full Swing Across the City



In May, we celebrated the ground-breaking of a new Oak Park Library, which is expected to be completed in spring 2028. At 20,000 square feet, the two-story facility will be four times the size of the current building. The new Library will feature an IDEA Lab, a podcast room, multipurpose spaces, reading areas for all ages, and a community patio and observation deck with views of the San Diego skyline.



Misty Jones, San Diego Public Library Director



Shirley Weber, PhD, California Secretary of State



Architectural Rendering

The existing Oak Park Library, built in 1969, will remain open during construction.



Library renovations are guided in part by the Library Master Plan. Approved in 2023 by the San Diego City Council, the Plan provides a long-range vision and strategy for modernizing Library facilities, technology, and programming. To develop the Plan, Library Foundation SD and the San Diego Public Library spent years listening to the needs of the communities across the city, analyzing internal and external data, and meeting with key stakeholders and officials. The Library Master Plan incorporates input from more than 11,000 San Diegans who participated in surveys, focus groups, and a series of listening sessions at every Library location. You can read the full Plan on the Library's website by scanning the QR code:



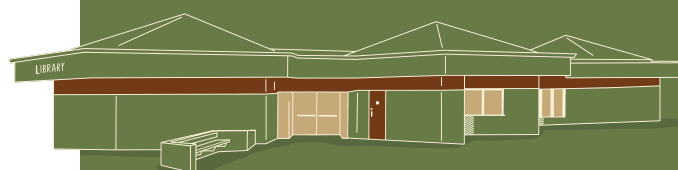
In early June, University Community Library reopened with new furniture for public reading areas, new flooring, sound-dampening panels in the community room, and landscaping improvements. The Library is also home to 15 works of art from the City's Civic Art Collection—be sure to check them out on your next visit.

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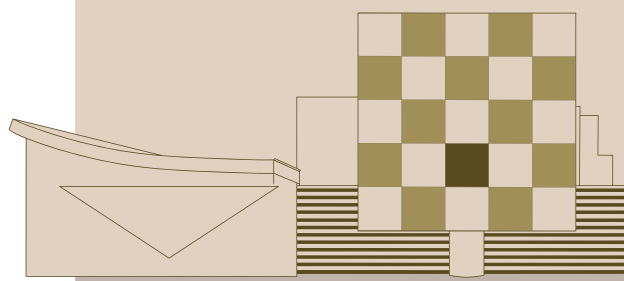
Renovations continue at the former Logan Heights Library building, which has been vacant since 2009. Built in 1927, the historic structure is being transformed into a multi-use community building that will serve as a teen space, community archive, and computer lab. A new Digital Memory Lab will be at the center of this community hub, funded by the Library Foundation SD and a Mellon Foundation grant. Outfitted with technology and digitization equipment, the Digital Memory Lab will teach patrons how to access, digitize, and share information and memories. Converting these analog materials to digital formats will enable participants to celebrate local histories and the cultural heritage of the community. The Lab will also facilitate research, engage local youth in internship and workforce opportunities, and programming that promotes intergenerational exchange. Construction is anticipated to be completed in winter 2027.

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The renovated City Heights/Weingart Library Performance Annex is expected to open later this summer. This expansion project adds a green room, dressing rooms, lobby, and box office to the existing Performance Annex building, allowing the theater to host larger performances and programs. The courtyard will also be transformed into an accessible and welcoming space. Expect to see even more concerts, dance classes, and live theater performances on the stage soon!



University Community Library



Logan Heights Library



City Heights/Weingart Library

HOW LIBRARY SHOP SD IS LIVING ITS BEST SAN DIEGO SUMMER

We've almost made it through another summer—our 13th at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common and our 1st at Library Shop Mission Hills

First, we got out and about in the community. This summer the Library Shop SD team once again popped up at San Diego Pride, sharing the Lit Café tent with the City and County Library systems; returned to our wildly popular booth at San Diego Comic-Con, shared with the Library; and also hosted our 5th Annual Blind Date with a Book panel, which has expanded to a 400 person room. We also joined several of our San Diego Book Crawl colleagues at the North Park Mini Book Fair. We fit all this in while organizing the system-wide Where's Odi @SDPL program. To wrap up the summer, find us at the San Diego Book Festival, hosted by KPBS, on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026 at the University of San Diego.



Second, we caught up on our reading. Summer is all about reading what you want to read, not what you're supposed to read, and the Booksellers at Library Shop SD spent the summer ignoring our to-be-read piles to dive into some new books like the ones featured on the next page.



Third, we are planning ahead for the fall and we've got some exciting events already on the calendar, including the 10th Annual Matchbook Story contest, and events with Sabaa Tahir, Mona Awad, Marivi Soliven, and an amazing event with John Green co-hosted with our friends from Meet Cute.

*more on the John Green event...



A record breaking group of finishers found Odi at 37 branches in just TWO days! One dedicated grandma drove her six granddaughters around, racing against vacation endings and libraries closing. Way to go!



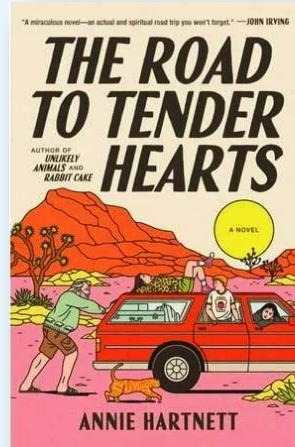
WHAT WE'RE READING

All proceeds from Library Shop SD purchases support the City of San Diego Public Library, as well as many local vendors and artisans. | libraryfoundationsd.org/shop

THE ROAD TO TENDER HEARTS

BY ANNIE HARTNETT

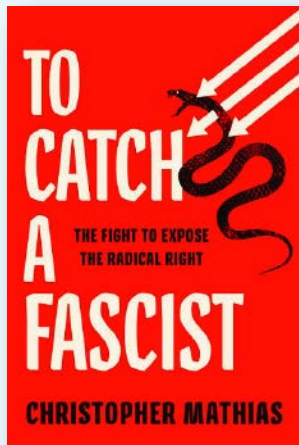
"This heartwarming story is about an older man who finds family he did not know he had and embarks on a cross-country road trip. There are twists, turns, and an unexpected ending. It is a light, warm, and endearing read for fans of *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi." - Jessica



TO CATCH A FASCIST: THE FIGHT TO EXPOSE THE RADICAL RIGHT

BY CHRISTOPHER MATHIAS

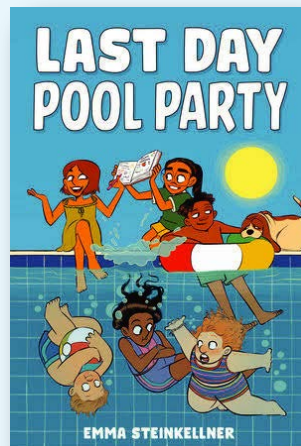
"A devastating but ultimately inspiring read. The history of fascism in the world at large—but especially in the United States—made me weep. This book is incredibly researched and reads like a spy novel. I'm really glad I didn't miss it!" - Hollis



LAST DAY POOL PARTY

BY EMMA STEINKELLNER

"I could relate to the similar problems of the characters in the graphic novel *Last Day Pool Party*. What I liked best about the story was that, in the end, they all learned about themselves, resolved problems, and fixed friendships, all while at a fun pool party." - Stella, our Gift Buyer's sixth grade daughter



AN EVENING WITH JOHN GREEN



Sunday, Oct. 11, 2026

7 p.m.

California Center for the Arts,
Escondido

Join Library Shop SD and our friends at Meet Cute in welcoming #1 international bestselling author John Green and a special guest for a conversation around John's adult fiction debut, *Hollywood, Ending*. The pair will discuss the book, answer audience questions, and more. Your purchase will include an autographed (not personalized) copy of *Hollywood, Ending*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Green is the award-winning, #1 bestselling author of books including *Looking for Alaska*, *The Fault in Our Stars*, *Turtles All the Way Down*, *The Anthropocene Reviewed*, and *Everything Is Tuberculosis*. With his brother, Hank, John has co-created many online video projects, including Vlogbrothers and the educational channel Crash Course. John's books have won many prizes, including an Audie Award, an Edgar Award, the Michael L. Printz Medal, and a Los Angeles Times Book Prize. John lives with his family in Indianapolis. You can visit him online at johngreenbooks.com.

**DON'T MISS OUT!
SCAN THE CODE TO BUY TICKETS!**



Leave a Legacy with the San Diego Public Library

Library Foundation SD strengthens the San Diego Public Library system through philanthropy, advocacy, and community outreach. Every gift helps expand the Library's ability to serve the community by providing innovative programs, essential resources and opportunities that enrich lives.

Support from donors like you allows the Foundation to serve as the Library's innovation partner, helping to enhance services and respond to the evolving needs of the community. One meaningful way to make a lasting impact is through a planned gift, such as a gift through a will or trust*.

A gift through a will or trust, also known as a bequest, can be a specific dollar amount, a percentage of an estate or trust, real estate, or other valuable assets. Planned gifts enable you to retain full use of your

assets during your lifetime while creating a legacy that supports the Library for generations to come. By including Library Foundation SD in your estate plans, you help build a stronger San Diego. Planned gifts support critical Library services and investments in early childhood literacy, workforce and economic development, civic engagement, digital access, and programs that advance equity and opportunity throughout our community.

With your generosity, the San Diego Public Library can continue to inspire lifelong learning, connect residents to vital resources, and create brighter futures for all.



"Including a provision in my plan to direct funds to the Library Foundation SD was one of the easiest decisions I have made. Knowing that this future gift is assured provides ongoing satisfaction."

-Nancy Carol Carter, Trustee and Donor for Library Foundation SD

*Prospective donors should seek the advice of qualified tax and legal professionals when considering their giving options.

Limited-Edition Library Cards Create Community Connections

If your Library card is due for an upgrade, you're in luck. The Library has introduced two brand new limited-edition Library card designs that celebrate what makes San Diego so special.

To kick off National Library Week in April, the Library partnered with the San Diego Wave Fútbol Club (Wave FC) to release a limited-edition Library card featuring Mr. Wavy, the Wave FC cartoon mascot.

The collectible card offers a new way for Wave FC fans to connect with the Library and access its millions of books and resources. Residents can obtain the limit-



ed-edition Library card by signing up for a free account at any San Diego Public Library location. Individuals who already have a Library card may request a replacement Wave FC card for a \$1 fee, while supplies last.

Every summer, the Library collaborates with Comic-Con International and local artists to create a limited-edition commemorative Comic-Con Library card. This is the only Library card licensed by Comic-Con International and was available at the Library booth during the convention. It is also available at all Library locations while supplies last. The 2026 Comic-Con Library card is illustrated by artist Keithan Jones, founder and owner of KID Comics and the creator of Black COMX Day. The design features a group of alien visitors making their way toward the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Plaza.

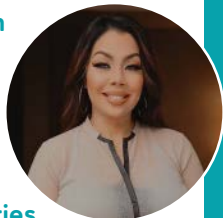


Community partnerships like the Wave and Comic-Con help strengthen connections to the Library by fostering civic pride, promoting local artists, and celebrating shared values and interests.

Update from a Library Graduate

Tellie Padilla participated in the San Diego Public Library Adult High School Diploma Program last year and had the following to say;

“Since my graduation, I couldn’t believe the number of opportunities that have opened up for me. Never in a million years would I have thought that every school I applied to would accept me, or that I would have a tough time choosing which acceptance letter to pick. Now, I truly can relate to the saying, ‘The opportunities are endless,’ because I am walking and living proof. Here I am, 37 years old; I haven’t been to school in 21 years, and now, here I am in 2026, having completed the program and enrolled in a university” -Tellie Padilla



Thank you for sharing, Tellie, and for showing us that opportunities really are endless at the Library.

Library Staff Offers Support Following Islamic Center Shooting

Following the tragic shooting at the Islamic Center of San Diego in May 2026, staff from several San Diego Public Library branches collaborated to provide resources and support for affected families, demonstrating the Library's commitment to serving the community, especially during times of crisis.

The effort began when Mission Valley Branch Youth Services Librarian Marika Jeffery learned that many children in the Muslim community were struggling to process the traumatic event. After hearing from a community member about the impact on families, Jeffery coordinated a system-wide response to gather books and resources focused on grief, trauma and healing.

Staff identified age-appropriate materials and compiled online resources for parents and caregivers that give language to both adults and children on difficult subjects. The selected materials also help to validate children's emotions, let them know they're not alone and normalize the emotions they may be feeling. Library staff created a shared bibliography, collected books from across the San Diego Public Library system and arranged for materials to be delivered to branch manager Ton Vo Ngo at the Balboa Library, which serves many of the affected families.

By the end of May, Library staff had assembled about 40 children's books, which were made available for pickup and distribution throughout the community.

The response was deeply appreciated, according to Jeffery.

"It was, and still is, a horrific and traumatic event, and the Muslim community generally expressed their gratitude for the resources we provided," she said.

What began as a simple outreach effort became a powerful example of Library staff working together to help families find comfort, understanding and support.



The 2026 Pride Library Card Contest selected Kori Callu's design for this year's San Diego Pride Library Card. The card launched on July 11 and will be available at all Library locations while supplies last.

“I’m a queer trans first-generation Mexican American, born and raised in San Diego. I proudly create art that celebrates my culture and queer-ness with colorful, folky imagery with a sense of whimsy and wonder. I hope to capture the joy I feel while creating my art, and hope that my work makes people smile, feel seen, and find a little bit of magic in themselves. It’s really special to have a little piece of my heart living on these cards and making its way into the pockets of people in San Diego.” -Kori Callu





PO Box 120391
San Diego, CA 92112

Library Foundation SD is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit dedicated to strengthening communities by supporting excellence in the San Diego Public Library system through philanthropy, advocacy, and outreach. The Foundation owns and operates Library Shop SD where all proceeds benefit the San Diego Public Library system. Library Shop at Central and Library Shop Mission Hills offer a well curated selection of new books and gifts for literary obsessives and library lovers. Visit us at either location for great book recommendations, niche literary treasures and author events.

Library Shop at Central
330 Park Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92101



Library Shop Mission Hills
925 W. Washington Street
(on the corner of Hawk St.)
San Diego, CA 92103



LIBRARYSHOPSD.ORG
@LIBRARYSHOPSD



LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN BETTER SERVE YOU

Library Foundation SD publishes this Impact Update three times a year. If you'd like to be more connected to Library Foundation and Library Shop news, sign up for our e-newsletters:

<https://bit.ly/lfsd-connect>

