

SIERRA MADRE PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2025–2026



Sierra Madre Public **LIBRARY**

Read • Discover • Connect



READ. DISCOVER. CONNECT.

A YEAR OF TRANSITION AND CELEBRATION

A New Chapter for the Library

Fiscal Year 2025–2026 was one of the most significant years in the Sierra Madre Public Library’s history. The Library served the community from its temporary home at 350 West Sierra Madre Boulevard through January 2026, closed for relocation from February 1 through June 5, and reopened at the renovated Library at 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard on June 6, 2026.

During the closure, staff moved collections, furniture, equipment, and operations from the temporary facility and long-term storage. At the same time, staff prepared the renovated building, reorganized collections, and planned for reopening—all while maintaining access to digital resources and community information.



Prep to move from the temporary library back to our permanent home.



Library Staff helping patrons during the Grant Reopening

The year also included professional recognition. Local History Librarian Debbie Roberts and Library Director Leila Regan were invited to present at the California Association of Museums Annual Conference about the Library's response to the Eaton Fire.



Library Staff presented at the 2026 California Association of Museums Annual Conference

FISCAL YEAR AT A GLANCE

The Year by the Numbers

195 Programs	8,282 Program participants	76,288 Items circulated
1,000+ Reopening visitors	1,000+ Opening-day checkouts	100+ New cards in two days

Because of the relocation, closure, and the Library's customary August programming nap, programs were offered during only six months of the fiscal year. Even with the shortened schedule, participation remained strong: 129 children's programs welcomed 5,377 participants; nine teen programs reached 82 participants; and 57 adult programs served 2,823 participants.

Adult program attendance increased by nearly 800 participants compared with the prior year, despite the Library offering 39 fewer adult programs. Circulation also remained resilient during the four-month closure, supported by strong activity immediately before the move, after reopening, and through the Library's digital collections.



Shelf Stories: You Never Know: A memoir by Tom Selleck

LEARNING, CREATIVITY, AND CONNECTION

Programming for All Ages



2026 Summer Reading Kickoff with Thor's Reptiles



2025 Gingerbread Jamboree at Memorial Park

The Library continued offering educational, cultural, and recreational experiences at the temporary Library and throughout the community. Popular events included the Great Pumpkin Smash, Gingerbread Jamboree, Summer Reading Kickoff, Library Open House, Stuffed Animal Sleepover, Summer Science Workshops, sensory play, book clubs, technology workshops, and passive activities.

Several programs reached well over 100 participants. The Great Pumpkin Smash welcomed over 280 participants, the Gingerbread Jamboree drew 240, the Summer Reading Kickoff with Thor's Reptiles reached over 250, and many others from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 reached well over 100 attendees.

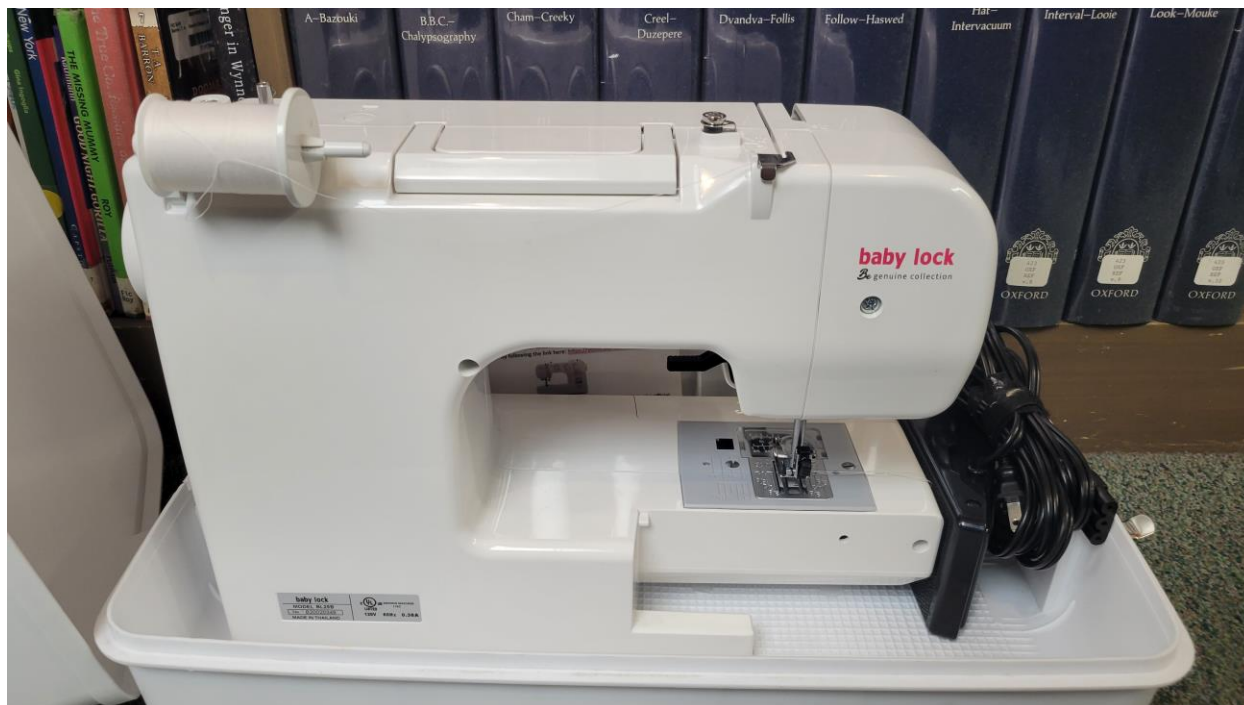
The Library also maintained new adult programs: Shelf Stories, a book club exploring a different genre each month, and Sip & Shush, a silent book club that takes place at RT Rogers Brewing Co.



Sip & Shush at Rt Rogers Brewing Co.

MORE THAN BOOKS

Access, Services, and Partnerships



The Library's growing collection includes technology, educational tools, recreation resources, and family supports.



2025 Creative Arts Group Scarecrow Library entry.

Services for everyone. The Library continued lending California State Parks passes, hiking backpacks, children’s mental health kits, mobile hotspots, STEM kits, robots, educational tablets, sewing machines, 3D printing, cricut access, and portable media players. New AWE Learning computers in the Children’s Room provide educational games without requiring internet access.

The online Library. Digital resources include eBooks, audiobooks, newspapers, magazines, streaming movies and music, language learning, homework help, college and career preparation, online research, comics, and caregiver education. These resources remained available throughout the physical closure.



STRONGER TOGETHER

Community Partnerships



2025 4th of July Parade



2026 Summer Science Workshop with local teacher Dany Richey and Teen Volunteers.

Community partnerships. Programs were hosted at Memorial Park, Hart Park House, the Sierra Madre Fire Station, and the YMCA. Partnerships with City departments, schools, community organizations, and local nonprofits expanded the Library’s reach and helped maintain services during construction and relocation.



2025 Challenger Pool Party at the YMCA

RETURNING HOME

Renovation and Relocation

The Library renovation completed major seismic, accessibility, electrical, plumbing, and environmental improvements and expanded the building by more than 5,000 square feet. The renovated facility includes the Mary Tumilty Community Room, two meeting rooms, a Teen Room, outdoor reading balcony, Local History Room, and Friends of the Library Bookstore.



Books on shelves during the move back to 440 W Sierra Madre Blvd. featuring Youth Services Librarian Doreen Thomas.



Staff moved materials from long-term storage and the temporary Library, then combined and reorganized the collections.

The move took place on a compressed schedule before the State grant deadline of May 31, 2026 and the June 6 reopening. Staff merged collections from two locations, evaluated materials to fit the available shelving, relocated workspaces, and prepared the building for public service.

The renovated Library provides distinct spaces for quiet study, collaboration, programs, local history, teens, families, and community gatherings. Remaining post-renovation projects will continue improving accessibility, functionality, and the patron experience.



Library Technician Julie Imahara & Library Clerk Samantha Rodriguez sitting in the new Teen Room Nook!



Organizing the move back to 440 W Sierra Madre Blvd.

JUNE 6, 2026

A Grand Reopening to Remember



The ribbon cutting and all-day celebration welcomed the community back to 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard.



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More than 1,000 people visited the Library on reopening day. The celebration included remarks, a ribbon cutting, a traditional lion dance by the San Gabriel Valley Chinese Cultural Association, a community party, the Summer Reading Kickoff program with Thor’s Reptiles, a music showcase from Sierra Madre Music, and the Library’s first Puzzle Competition.

More than 1,000 items were checked out that day, and the Friends of the Library Bookstore earned more than \$700 in sales. During the first two days, the Library issued more than 100 new Library cards—approximately 60 percent to Sierra Madre residents.



The ribbon cutting and all-day celebration welcomed the community back to 440 West Sierra Madre Boulevard.

BUILDING ON THE MOMENTUM

Strategic Plan Alignment

IG 1.3 – Library Renovation — Completion of the renovation, relocation, and reopening of the Library.

CE 3.1 B – Enhance Library Services — Programs and services designed around the needs and interests of people of all ages.

CE 3.1 C – Online Resources — Expansion and promotion of online databases, digital collections, and technology resources.

CE 3.1 D – Community Outreach — Partnerships with City departments, community organizations, schools, and local service providers.

OS 3.1 B – Public Wi-Fi — Improved internet access, coverage, and reliability at the renovated Library.

OS 1.2 B – Staffing Needs — Continued evaluation of staffing and operational needs within the expanded facility.

OS 2.1 – Capital Investment — Prioritization of remaining facility improvements and future campus projects.

ER 2.4 – Solar Adaptation — Exploration of solar panels and other long-term sustainability improvements at the Library campus.

What's Next



Library Technician Julie Imahara hosting Preschool Storytime in the renovated Children's Room.

The Library will evaluate staffing levels and programming capacity based on the demands of the larger, two-floor facility. Near-term priorities include audiovisual installation, ADA entrance buttons, additional stack lighting, and other operational improvements. Longer-term concepts include solar panels over the parking lot and coordinated fencing, landscaping, and outdoor campus enhancements.

MADE POSSIBLE TOGETHER

With Gratitude

The Sierra Madre Public Library’s accomplishments are made possible by the Library Board of Trustees, Friends of the Sierra Madre Library, Sierra Madre Library Foundation, Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society, Sierra Madre Community Foundation, City departments, local organizations, volunteers, donors, and residents.

The Friends and the Sierra Madre Library Foundation pledged or raised approximately \$1.4 million for furniture, fixtures, and equipment not covered by grant funding. The City of Sierra Madre contributed approximately \$1.8 million to the Library Meaningful Improvement Project.





Sierra Madre Public Library staff serving the community during a year of extraordinary change.

Thank you for supporting the Sierra Madre Public Library.

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SierraMadreCA.gov/Library

