

## Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois, Coordinator Grants & Volunteers

At its September 7 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Friends of the OPL approved **\$224,500** in grants to the library for the 2022-23 fiscal year. OPL is extremely grateful to receive these grants, which include support for:

- Systemwide Programming (for Children, Teens, & Adults)
- the Youth Poet Laureate Program
- Youth Leadership Activities
- Library Outreach
- Facility improvements & beautification projects
- The African American Museum & Library at Oakland (AAMLO)
- Branch Equity Grants (extra support for 81st Avenue, Asian, Brookfield, Chavez, Eastmont, Elmhurst, Martin Luther King, Jr., Melrose, and West Oakland branch libraries)
- Community Relations efforts
- Staff hospitality and training
- Staff MLIS Scholarships
- and more!

These grants are critical to OPL and would not be possible without Friends members, donors, and the Bookmark Bookstore. The library thanks everyone for the financial support and the volunteer work that makes this funding possible.

## The Bookmark News

The Bookmark Bookstore welcomed two new co-managers, Sven-Eric Geddes and Laura Guzman, at the beginning of October. Sven will be primarily responsible for store operations while Laura will be focusing on recruiting, promotion, and outreach projects. The duo is succeeding longtime volunteer and store manager, Phyllis Couillard, who retired at the end of September. Come by the store and say hi to the new managers!



## Fall Sale at The Bookmark!

Our huge semi-annual sale is back in its traditional format from **Thursday, October 20 through Sunday, October 23.**

- On **Thursday**, all members of the Friends of the OPL will receive a 50% discount off our regular low prices for books, LPs, CDs and jigsaw puzzles. If you're not already a member, you can join right now, or join at the store that day. [fopl.org/get-involved](https://fopl.org/get-involved)
- On **Friday**, all shoppers will receive a 30% discount
- On **Saturday**, the discount increases to 40%
- On **Sunday**, everyone gets 50% off everything in the store!

We have a ton of inventory waiting for you, come shop with us. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Notice of Friends of the OPL Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library will hold its Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, November 2 at 5:15pm** via Zoom. The main item of business is the election of board members for the upcoming two-year term. All members are invited!

If you would like to attend, email [info@fopl.org](mailto:info@fopl.org) and we will send you the Zoom meeting details.

Current directors standing for re-election for two-year terms (2022-24):

- Charu Mehra and Kathryn Sterbenc
- Current directors appointed during 2022 to be elected for two-year terms (2022-24):

- Jennifer Chen and Erica Faitek
- Current candidates standing for election for two-year terms (2022-24):
- Aniya Grimm and Anastasia Yip

## Connect with Friends of the OPL on Social Media



BookmarkBookstore.FOPL



FOPL\_Bookmark



FOPL\_Bookmark

## A Storied History: The Bookmark Turns 30

When the Friends of the Oakland Public Library opened a used bookstore in 1992, it was the continuation of a long tradition of volunteers organizing book sales to benefit Oakland's libraries. Today, The Bookmark Bookstore is staffed by about 40 active volunteers and two paid managers, and currently open to the public five days a week – Wednesday to Sunday, 11am-4pm. This is an amazing operation fueled for the last 30 years by the support of thousands of customers and donors, hundreds of volunteers and the Board of the Friends of the OPL. And importantly, the impact of these efforts is impressive: Sales from 1992 to 2022 total \$3 million to support the Oakland Public Library.

To thank our community for its support, we will continue to offer our special 30% anniversary discount every Saturday and Sunday through October, with Friends of OPL members receiving the special discount every day in October. Of course, the discounts will be even greater during [The Bookmark's Semi-Annual Sale](#) from October 20th to 23rd.

As The Bookmark celebrates 30 years in Old Oakland, we look back at the tradition of volunteer book sales, the interesting locations where sales were held, and some challenges and triumphs.

The following history is adapted from an article, "**Oakland's Peripatetic Book Sale,**" by Genevieve Katz, longtime Friends Board Director, published in the Friends *Off the Shelf* newsletter in October 2002:

- **1966:** The Friends began holding book sales in the West Auditorium of the Main Library to raise funds for Oakland libraries. The sale was advertised as "Book Sale - books from a nickel to 50 cents." Although prices have increased slightly since then, you still can find a book for 50 cents at The Bookmark Bookstore.
- **1972 to 1992:** These were the wandering years for book sales. During this period, book sales were staged at borrowed locations. Volunteers lugged books to four different venues – City Center, The Oakland Museum, Jack London Village, and the Firehouse.
- **1992:** The Friends established its first permanent bookstore at 815 Washington Street in the Old Oakland district, which was the "original" downtown Oakland. Back in its 19th century heyday, after the arrival of the Central Pacific Railroad, Washington Street had become one of the main hotel, business, and shopping streets, servicing the travelers from Chicago and commuters from Piedmont and San Francisco.
- **1995:** Wandering no more, The Bookmark arrived at its present location at 721 Washington Street, which carries the inscription "Dunns Block 1896" on its capstone. The 1,400-square-foot store features some 10,000 books downstairs on the premium shelves sorted by section, with another 5,000+ upstairs (some destined for online buyers), and that's not including boxes and boxes of donations on both floors. Imbued with history and charm, evident in its 12-foot front doors, The Bookmark also stands out among bookstores run by library friends groups in that it is housed in its own rent-paying storefront.

- **2020:** As was true for so many businesses, the global COVID pandemic provided a difficult challenge for The Bookmark – how to operate when closed to customers? Because The Bookmark is a stand-alone site with real business expenses, such as rent and manager salary, this was an urgent issue to solve. Fortunately, the Friends' Bookstore Committee, long-time dedicated manager Phyllis Couillard and many volunteers were up to the task. Co-Treasurers Julie Waldman and Winifred Walters worked tirelessly to apply for and receive a Payroll Protection Program loan as well as several grants, including a California Humanities CA CARES Relief Grant, a Stop Waste Reuse Grant and a California Small Business COVID-19 Relief Grant, together totaling over \$45,000.

Meanwhile, even during COVID, the donations to the bookstore didn't stop. Intrepid volunteers worked in limited shifts to process the incoming donations and to sell books curbside. Photos of many of the store shelves were taken and placed online to create the [Virtual Bookstore](#) so customers could shop from home while the bookstore remained closed. And customers continued to shop the bookstore's online sales of used books on [Amazon](#) and [eBay](#). The Bookmark even teamed up with [Bookshop.org](#) to sell new books online as well, with buyers from all over the country shopping at the site supporting The Bookmark.

Phyllis said: "Keeping the store open with our virtual bookstore and curbside sales during COVID, thanks in large part with help from our bookstore committee members," was the highlight of a most challenging period. "Once word got out that we were open, we received such great support from the customers, our members and first-time shoppers - the whole community!"

In its 30th year, The Bookmark continues to innovate and evolve. This month as Phyllis retires, the bookstore welcomes a new management team. Sven-Erik Geddes will be primarily responsible for store operations - books, pricing, merchandising, working with volunteers and assigning tasks. Sven-Erik has experience with both the San Francisco and Palo Alto Friends' book sales operations. Laura Guzman will be primarily responsible for recruiting, promotion, and outreach projects. Laura has been a Saturday volunteer for the past few months and has significant marketing experience.

With a storied past and inspiring determination to succeed, The Bookmark is a tribute to the many people who have willed its success for more than 30 years.

Here's to all those who love books and love supporting the Oakland Public Library!

**Happy Birthday, Bookmark Bookstore, and many happy returns!**

## Friends Board Welcomes Erica Faitek



Please join us in welcoming Erica Faitek to the Friends board. Erica joined the Board of FOPL in September 2022. Erica is originally from Minnesota and a resident of Oakland since 2013. Erica and her family are huge Oakland Public Library fans, and she is proud to support Oakland Public Libraries as a Friend and member of the board. We look forward to working with Erica!

## OPL Funding on Nov. 8 Ballot

Nestled on the City of Oakland's hefty Nov. 8 General Election ballot is a potential \$15 million in funding for Oakland Public Library. We're voting YES! Measure U, an \$850 million bond measure, includes \$15 million of "Facility Preservation and Improvement" funds for Oakland Public Library. The bulk of the funds are earmarked for Affordable Housing (\$350 million) and Transportation (\$290 million).

To learn more, read the full ballot resolution, donate, volunteer, or request yard signs, please go to [sayyesoakland.org](https://sayyesoakland.org).

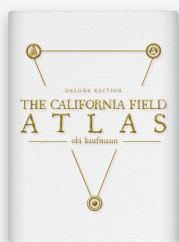
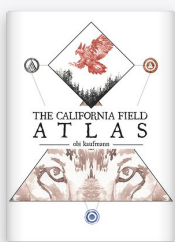
## Friends of the OPL Board Book Recommendations

These titles can be found at OPL (check the card catalog at [oaklandlibrary.org](https://oaklandlibrary.org)) or purchased from Bookshop [bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore](https://bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore)

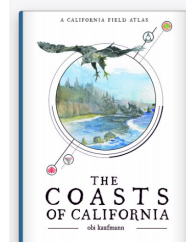
### CALIFORNIA FIELD ATLASES

#### Obi Kaufmann

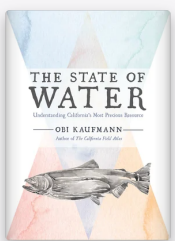
Artist-adventurer Obi Kaufmann takes readers beyond normal conceptions of California, blending science and art to illuminate the state's multifaceted array of living, connected systems. Kaufmann unveils layer after layer of the natural world, depicting its myriad ecologies, topographies, and histories in exquisite maps and trail paintings. The effect is staggeringly beautiful: a California made up of dancing tectonic plates, watersheds, and wildflower gardens. Any of the books in this collection makes an extraordinary gift and purchasing from [Bookshop](https://bookshop.org) supports the Oakland Public Libraries.



Full of character and color, a bit larger than life, *The California Field Atlas* (regular and Deluxe Edition) are the ultimate road trip companion and love letter to a place.



At the book's core is an expansive, detailed walk down the California Coastal Trail, including maps of parks along the way--a wealth of knowledge for any coast-lover.



Arguing that environmental conservation and restoration efforts are necessary not only for ethical reasons but also as a matter of human survival, Kaufmann offers nine perspectives to illustrate the most pressing challenges facing California's water infrastructure and reveals pragmatic yet inspiring solutions to how water in the West can continue to support agriculture, municipalities, and the environment.



Kaufmann tells an epic story that spans millions of years, nearly one hundred species of trees, and an astonishing richness of ecosystems.

## Giving

- In memory of Carlon Tanner from Rebecca Parish
- In honor of Trish Elliott's 80th birthday
- In honor of Hanh-Nhan Truong
- In honor of Winifred Walters, who has gone above and beyond to support the Oakland Public Library, from Lianne Campodonico
- In honor of Annette Wood, Karen Jing, and Susan Hampton, in honor of their loyal service to the Friends as Bookmark volunteers, from a Friend
- In honor of Esther Cook from Christine Eudoxie



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## Friends of the OPL Board Members

- ✦ Ynez Arce, *Vice President, Newsletter Co-Editor*
- ✦ Jennifer Chan
- ✦ Stephen Cole
- ✦ Erica Dennings
- ✦ Erica Faitek, *Co-Treasurer*
- ✦ Elizabeth Falkner
- ✦ Colleen Haikes, *Newsletter Co-Editor*
- ✦ Corey Hatcher
- ✦ Sara Jewell, *Co-Treasurer*
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Nick Marble
- ✦ Charu Mehra, *Newsletter Co-Editor*
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Valerie Villanueva, *Secretary*
- ✦ Julie Waldman, *Co-Treasurer*

We welcome your feedback & comments: [info@fopl.org](mailto:info@fopl.org)

If the date on your mailing label is **09-01-2022**  
or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

Our mission is to advance the role of the Oakland Public Library as a vital community resource and as an institution critical to the culture, education, and welfare of our diverse community.

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library is the only organization that provides support to all Oakland Public Libraries.

In addition to that great feeling that comes with supporting the library, members receive our quarterly newsletter that includes a special feature highlighting grants to the library.

The Bookmark Bookstore operates on volunteer power and is a community resource for anyone who loves books. The Bookmark has been in Oakland since 1992. Proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Library. Members receive a discount on purchases.

### **Your support is always needed and appreciated:**

Your annual member dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library. **In the last 10 years**, Friends of the OPL granted almost \$2M for library programs and projects.

More ways to support Friends of the OPL:

- Make a tax deductible donation
- Invite a friend to become a member
- Leave a legacy by naming Friends of the OPL as a beneficiary in your estate plan
- Shop for books and media at The Bookmark Bookstore
- Donate gently used books to The Bookmark Bookstore
- Purchase new books at [bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore](http://bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore)
- Shop online at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchase when you select Friends of the Oakland Public Library.

Thank you!

**To learn more about Friends of the Oakland Public Library, visit [www.fopl.org](http://www.fopl.org)**

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.  
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