

Board Approves Generous Grants to the Library

In August, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library Board approved an astounding \$285,000 in Annual Grants for fiscal year 2026-27.

"The Oakland Public Library (OPL) is truly fortunate to have such wonderful Friends! I thank you -- the members, donors, and the scores of volunteers at the Bookmark and beyond who have made these grants possible. Please visit us at the library, any time, to see your incredible impact," said Library Director Jamie Turbak. "Some of the library's best programs and events are only possible with your support." Below are just a few of these special Friends-funded programs:

- Sewing, craft, and fitness classes
- The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program
- Cultural series to celebrate our diverse community
- Cycling programs and bike repair workshops
- Book clubs, author talks, and digital literacy classes
- Summer Reading and Winter Bingo to keep youth engaged and learning over school breaks
- Seed libraries at 16 locations

These grants would not be possible without you, our members. Together, we have given the library the means to bring some amazing programs and services to our community. Thank you for your generous contributions. We hope to see you at the library! www.oaklandlibrary.org



The Bike Fix



English Learning Circle



A Taste of West



MOCHA At The Library!

Attention All Members: Join us at the 2026 Annual Meeting!

The Friends of the OPL will hold its Annual Meeting of General Members on Zoom on **Wednesday, December 2 from 5:15-5:45 pm.**

Please come to learn more about the Friends and to vote for the Board of Directors. We'll also be honoring Kathryn Sterbenc, who served as Board President for a remarkable nine years (2016-2025). Kathryn has made a profound impact on this organization and the greater library community, and this is her last meeting as a Director. Please join us to acknowledge her many contributions.

If you would like to attend, email pres@fopl.org to receive the Zoom meeting details.



June 2018: Kathryn Sterbenc presents the award to Oakland Youth Poet Laureate Leila Mottley, with former Mayor Libby Schaaf.

Hooray for Hoover!

In 2013, Madeline Wells and Alternier Cook began their quest to bring a public library back to their West Oakland neighborhood. Rallying against the racist disinvestment that had closed the Telegrove Library in 1950 and the North Oakland Library in 1981, they formed the grassroots nonprofit Friends of the Hoover Durant Public Library (FOHDPL).

The Oakland City Council responded to the FOHDPL calls for action by funding the Hoover Library Feasibility Study, which engaged the community and analyzed six potential sites in 2023-24. Last fall, the study's first-choice site went on the market: the former Community Foods store at 3105 San Pablo Avenue. The City Council unanimously approved its purchase, and the sale is expected to close on October 30.

The City submitted a grant proposal to the California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) last month, asking for \$10 million to retrofit the building into the new **Hoover Branch Library and Community Resilience Center** -- a facility that would strengthen the neighborhood against the impacts of climate change while fulfilling the community's vision of reopening its library.

The Friends of the OPL Board approved a special grant requested by the library in early September: \$200,000 to support the community engagement and programming portion of the project, contingent upon the City receiving one of these highly competitive SGC awards.

While much remains to be done before opening the doors, please join us in congratulating the FOHDPL on their many accomplishments!



FOHDPL leaders, Councilmember Carroll Fife, and City staff after the March 24 Life Enrichment Committee meeting.

Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois, OPL Coordinator of Grants & Volunteers

The past few months have been full of Friends-funded projects and activities, and it was too difficult to pick just one for this newsletter! Thanks to your support, the library was able to:

- ✦ Host a fun End of Summer Celebration for Oakland families on August 1 and award donated and grant-funded prizes to kids, teens, and adults who completed 20+ days of reading or other activities over the summer.
- ✦ Organize popular back-to-school events at the 81st Ave and Martin Luther King, Jr. Branches that provided free haircuts, braiding, and backpacks for neighborhood children and teens.
- ✦ Plan more than 20 special programs throughout the system to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month (September 15 – October 15).
- ✦ Install new flooring to replace the worn-out carpeting at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch.
- ✦ Award four scholarships to staff who are pursuing their library degrees. Congratulations to the 2026 Friends of the OPL Scholarship winners: Baylee Basila, Guayo Cartegena, Emma Fenton-Miller, and Robin Hubilla!
- ✦ Print, frame, and install 36 new photos from the Oakland History Center's extensive collections in the Main Library's second-floor historic photo gallery.
- ✦ Celebrate the reopening of the Brookfield Branch Library after a year of renovations with engaging programs, refreshments, and face painting for children.
- ✦ Provide engaging and responsive programming at all locations: arts and crafts, sewing and mending, chair yoga, book clubs, a restorative justice roundtable, author talks, a job search session, and so much more.

These programs and projects make our libraries better and strengthen our community. Thank you for making them possible!

Get to Know Your Grants is a regular feature highlighting activities that are supported by the Friends of the OPL. Sara can be reached at (510) 238-6572 or sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org.

Board of Directors News

Farewell to Board Director Glenn Poppe, who joined the Board in 2024 after serving as a Bookmark volunteer. As a Director, Glenn sharpened his focus on the Bookmark. Although many of his contributions happened behind the scenes, his impact was felt broadly during the Bookstore's 2024 move to its current location. We thank him for his service on the Board.

Many thanks to Noah Cohen, who joined the Friends Board in 2025. His enthusiasm and willingness to step into needed roles were invaluable. He chaired the Communications Committee, and he also served on both the Finance and the 75th Anniversary committees. We will miss Noah and thank him for all he has given.

Thank you to Brad Thomas, whose expertise in banking and accounting helped the Friends manage our finances more efficiently and effectively. Working alongside the co-Treasurers this past year, Brad brought a new level of effectiveness to the organization, pairing traditional board governance with strategic financial oversight to strengthen our stewardship and long-term sustainability. We are grateful for all he continues to do for the Friends as a volunteer.

Year-End Giving Options

Did you know that the Friends of the OPL accepts charitable gifts from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs)? Many Friends members count these donations towards their Required Minimum Distribution.

The Friends have also received thoughtful planned gifts from donors who have named the organization as a charitable beneficiary in their IRAs, or those who have left gifts for the library through the Friends in their wills and trusts.

Please consult with your tax advisor or attorney about the pros and cons of these giving strategies. If you've made plans that include the Friends, please consider contacting us at Development@fopl.org, so that we can thank you.

The Fall History Series

The Oakland History Center's Fall History Series is back! Learn about the Black Panther Party, Occupy Oakland, Environmental History, and more. Dates, times, and locations are available at:

oaklandlibrary.org/OHC-Fall-Series

Giving *Every gift can be a tribute gift! Just include your message with the donation. fopl.org/donate*

In loving memory of Mary Ann Maxwell from the Adams-McKee Family

In honor of Trish Elliott's birthday, from Hanh-Nhan Truong

In honor of Trish Elliott on her birthday, from Winifred Walters

In honor of Debbie Tellier, who nurtured my love of reading, from Jessica Tellier

In honor of Robert John Harris, 1945-2026, from Alice H. Erb

Happy Birthday, Sierra! We love to support the organizations you support! Jean and John

In memory of Barbara J. Duncan, from Marybeth Pallone

In memory of Michael Robison, from Gregory Robison

In memory of Dolly Parton, from Stephanie Seitz

In memory of Chris Buckley, from Aileen Frankel

In memory of Tam Hege, from Sue Smegal

In memory of Tam Hege from Jerold and Paulla Harris

In memory of Tam Hege, a longtime supporter of the Oakland Public Library, from Mary Ann Benson.

In memory of Tam Hege, from Pauline Mingram



In Memoriam

The Friends of the OPL is grateful to Tam Hege for her service and for a generous gift through her estate. Tam, who died in June of this year, was a lifelong library advocate and served on our board from 2012-2016.



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We welcome your feedback & comments:

info@fopl.org

If the date on your mailing label is **9-30-2026** or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

THE BOOKMARK — BOOKSTORE —

933 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607

(510) 444-0473 | www.fopl.org

All proceeds benefit the Oakland Public Library.

MONTHLY MEMBER SALES

Members receive 50% off on Saturday and everyone receives 30% off on Sunday.

November 21-22

December 19-20

January 16-17

Bulk Buyers (purchasing 100+ items) are welcome on the Monday after each sale.

MORE FROM THE BOOKMARK

The Bookmark Bookstore is open late on Friday, October 30 for **Bookmark After Dark**, an extended hours shopping day.

Join us for a family-friendly night of fun from 5-8:30 pm. Candy, prizes for everyone in costume, and book shopping!

Visit www.fopl.org for more details.

Looking for that perfect gift? Consider a Friends of the OPL membership! Use the Membership Form at fopl.org/donate and select "Gift Membership." A gift certificate to the Bookmark is also a great option. These can be purchased online or in the store.

Share the good feeling of supporting the library through the Friends!

Erin Rivero, *Operations Manager* * Cheryl Liquori, *Volunteer Manager* * Lio Min, *Online Sales Manager*

To learn more about Friends of the Oakland Public Library, visit fopl.org.

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

Our tax ID is 94-2553734. All contributions are tax deductible.