

The Library Thanks You

By Jamie Turbak, Library Director



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Library Director

Dear Library Friends,

The Oakland Public Library is so thankful for your continued support.

On Wednesday, September 6, the Friends of the Oakland Public Library Board of Directors approved \$235,000 in Annual Grants to support OPL programs, services, and facilities. These grants will make a positive impact at every location in the library system.

Included in this award is another round of Branch Equity grants -- \$2,500 each for libraries located in high priority neighborhoods -- which allow library staff to plan and quickly

implement new programs and activities. The Annual Grants also support the inspiring Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program, OPL garden and seed library initiatives, Children's Literacy programming, and more.

Additionally, the Board authorized one-time grants of \$30,000 to support teen programming at the 81st Avenue Branch Library and \$88,000 to continue weekly art workshops for children at 11 library locations in the 2024-25 school year.

I am profoundly grateful to the Friends of the Oakland Public Library Board of Directors, the Bookmark Bookstore volunteers, and the 1,000+ members of the Friends of the OPL. Thank you! Your support means so much to the library and our community.

Notice of Friends of the OPL Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Oakland Public Library will hold its Annual Meeting on **Wednesday, November 1 at 5:15pm** via Zoom. The main item of business is the election of board directors for the upcoming two-year term. All members are invited!

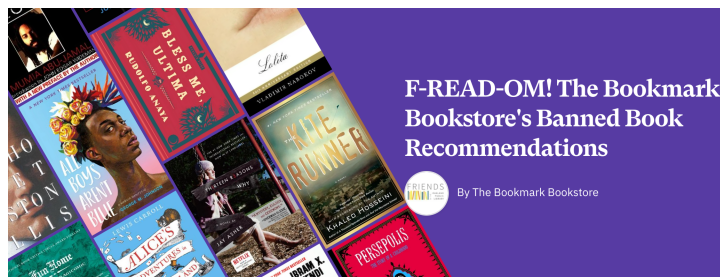
If you would like to attend, please email pres@fopl.org and we will send you the Zoom meeting details.

Current directors standing for re-election for two-year terms (2023-25): Ynez Arce, Stephen Cole, Erica Dennings, Elizabeth Falkner, Colleen Haikes, Corey Hatcher, Sara Jewell, Pooneh Kooyhar, Ronile Lahti, and Rebecca Pfiffner

Current directors appointed during 2023 to be elected for two-year terms (2023-25): Mifta Chowdhury and Cora Tellez

The Bookmark Bookstore News

F-READ-OM! We stand against censorship and behind efforts to defend access to books for all. Enjoy this running list of The Bookmark Bookstore's favorite banned books. tinyurl.com/4we7vewm



Free Comic Books, Kids Books, and Ice Cream... OH MY!

Stop by The Bookmark Bookstore on **Sunday, November 12th between 10:30am – 5:30pm**, and you can select a comic and children's book from our amazing collection for FREE! As an extra treat, **starting at 2pm we will be giving out free ice cream!** (Limit 1 treat per customer, while supplies last). Note: "Free Children's Book Day" is every second Sunday of the month. Bring the whole family and find something new and exciting to read! Join us here: 721 Washington Street, Oakland.

Get to Know Your Grants

By Sara DuBois, Coordinator of Grants & Volunteers

The library's most popular annual program is Kids' Summer Reading. Children ages 0-14 are encouraged to read daily, earning a book of their choice after 20 days and chances at larger prizes (awarded by raffle) after 20, 30, 40, and 50 days of reading.

Free drop-in activities at all library locations are another critical component of the program. This summer, OPL hosted more than 160 interactive music and dance performances, animal encounters, storytellers, puppet shows, and magic acts – all free of charge and easy to access in neighborhood libraries. For many children in Oakland, these library events provide critical group learning and enrichment opportunities that they might otherwise go without over the summer school break.

5,135 children participated in the Kids' Summer Reading program this summer. OPL staff and volunteers at seven library locations also served 2,609 free lunches to youth ages 0-18 during the 10-week program.

The library is pleased to acknowledge the following Major Sponsors (who provided \$5,000 or more) to make Kids' Summer Reading possible in 2023:

- Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation
- The Friends of the Oakland Public Library
- The Friends of Rockridge Library
- William G. Gilmore Foundation
- Hellman Foundation Fund
- Matson Foundation
- The Bernard Osher Foundation
- Kenneth Rainin Foundation

Thanks also to the following generous prize donors who donated prizes that encouraged so many children to read this summer:

- The Bookmark Bookstore
- Chabot Space and Science Center
- Children's Fairyland
- East Oakland Sports Center
- Folkmanis Puppets
- Lake Merritt Boating Center
- The MADE (The Museum of Art and Digital Entertainment)
- The Oakland A's
- Oakland Feather River Family Camp
- Oakland Roots SC
- The Oakland Zoo
- San Francisco Bay Ferry



Photo credit: Doug Zimmerman

Get to Know Your Grants is a regular newsletter feature which highlights some of the library programs, activities, and improvements that are possible thanks to your support for the Friends of the OPL. For more information, please contact Sara DuBois at sdubois@oaklandlibrary.org or (510) 238-6572.

OPL Events

Upcoming and Ongoing Events

International Games Month @ Elmhurst Branch

International Games Month (IGM) is an annual celebration of games, play, libraries, and learning. You can visit Elmhurst all month and play giant-sized games such as Connect 4, Jenga, Chess, Checkers, and Dominos. When the weather cooperates, the games will be hosted in our garden.

MOCHA At The Library! @ MLK Jr. Branch

Wednesdays 1:30-3pm

FREE weekly Art Workshops for children and families led by teachers from the Museum of Children's Art (MOCHA).



MOCHA workshops focus on building creativity, social-emotional and academic skills through art. For ages 5-15 and caregivers.

Teen Imagined Histories: Make New Stories From Old Photos @ Main Library Teen Zone

Wednesday, November 8, 4-5:30pm

In this writing workshop teens will take inspiration from amazing photos found in the Oakland History Center's collections and write them new stories.

Welcome to Friends Board | Cora Tellez and Mifta Chowdhury



Cora Tellez lives in Oakland and serves as company CEO and Board Chair of Sterling Health Services Administration, a company she founded in 2004. Sterling provides account-based services (HSA, FSA, HRA, Cobra) linked to health benefits. Prior to founding Sterling Administration, Cora

held executive positions at Health Net, Inc., Prudential Healthcare, Blue Shield of California, and Kaiser Permanente.

In 2018, Cora founded a charitable non-profit organization, The Amazing Care Charitable Foundation, which provides education, social networking resources, and care-giving support to seniors and their families who can't afford these services.

Cora currently serves as Chair of two nonprofit boards: Hawaii Community Health Alliance, a Hawaii nonprofit corporation providing medical network services to trust fund members and the Amazing Care Charitable Foundation.

Mifta Chowdhury has been a lover of libraries since the age of four when he purportedly practiced scribbling his name to sign his first library card at a local Bronx branch of the New York Public Library. His public library volunteer work began in high school, and he has also volunteered with organizations that

provide access to free books, such as Books through Bars and the Prisoners Literature Project. Mifta moved to Oakland in 2021, began volunteering at The Bookmark soon after, and joined the FOPL Board in 2023.

As a public health professional, Mifta currently analyzes access to Kaiser Permanente mental health services in Northern California. He is passionate about public mental health and also serves on the Alameda County Public Health Commission. Mifta appreciates the opportunity to serve his community in multiple ways, including through support and advocacy for the Oakland Public Library.



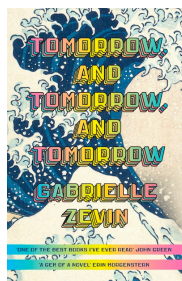
What the Friends Board is Reading

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



THE WOMEN OF CHATEAU LAFAYETTE Stephanie Dray

Historical fiction spanning the American Revolution to WW2 from the well documented libraries of the Marquise de Lafayette and Mrs. William Astor Chanler. - Recommended by Sara Jewell



TOMORROW AND TOMORROW AND TOMORROW Gabrielle Zevin

Two friends--often in love, but never lovers--come together as creative partners in the world of video game design, where success brings them fame, joy, tragedy, duplicity, and, ultimately, a kind of immortality. - Recommended by Aniya Grimm

Giving

- In memory of Judy Toll from Carmen Martinez, former OPL Library Director
- In memory of Sylvia and Joel Saldinger from Gayle Saldinger
- In memory of Phillip Wong from the Martha Chan Family
- In memory of Barbara May Chan from the Martha Chan Family
- In loving memory of Rodrigo Quintanilla
- In honor of Debbie Tellier - who nurtured my love of reading - from Jessica Tellier
- In honor of my daughter Alicia Trujillo from Aileen Frankel
- A huge thank you to Tammy's Camaro, the local band led by Friends member, Phil Hayes, for the wonderful music at The Ivy Room and for raising \$2,200 for the Friends of OPL!



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Friends of the OPL Board Members

- ✦ Ynez Arce, *Vice President, Newsletter Editor*
- ✦ Jennifer Chan
- ✦ Mifta Chowdhury, *Assistant Treasurer*
- ✦ Stephen Cole
- ✦ Erica Dennings
- ✦ Elizabeth Falkner
- ✦ Aniya Grimm
- ✦ Colleen Haikes
- ✦ Corey Hatcher
- ✦ Sara Jewell, *Treasurer*
- ✦ Pooneh Koohyar
- ✦ Ronile Lahti
- ✦ Charu Mehra
- ✦ Rebecca Pfiffner
- ✦ Kathryn Sterbenc, *President*
- ✦ Cora Tellez
- ✦ Julie Waldman
- ✦ Anastasia Yip, *Secretary*

We welcome your feedback & comments:
info@fopl.org

If the date on your mailing label is **09-01-2023**
or earlier, PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

Thanks to your support, in the last 10 years Friends of the OPL granted almost \$2 million for library programs and projects. Thank you for your continued support!

Mission

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 Libraries.

Ways to Support Friends of the OPL

- Membership - your annual member dues help fund grants to the Oakland Public Library
- 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 where members receive discounts for their purchases
- Donate gently used books to The Bookmark Bookstore
- Purchase new books at bookshop.org/shop/theBookmarkBookstore

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