



INFORMATION REPORTS

October 10, 2024

To: Board of Library Trustees
From: Tess Mayer, Director of Library Services
Subject: Director's Report

Vacancies:

<u>Position Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Status</u>
Communication Specialist (new)	Administration	1	Pending recruitment
Communication Program Manager (new)	Administration	1	Recruitment initiated
Library Aide	Circulation	3.75	Pending interviews
Library Assistant	Collections	0.75	Pending processing of changes
Supervising Librarian (new)	Tool Library	1	Pending recruitment
Library Assistant (new)	West	1.5	Pending recruitment
Tool Lending Specialist (new)	Tool Library	1	Pending recruitment
Supervising Library Assistant	THPS	1	Recruitment initiated

Including the new positions that have been added over the past seven months, the Library has a vacancy rate of 7%.

Justice in Libraries Training: All Staff

Now that the first cohort of staff, the Library Council (supervisors and managers), has participated in the Justice in Libraries training provided by Mia Henry, the training has begun for all staff and will take place in October, November and December.

This multi-part, self-paced online training offers opportunities for more in-depth examination of questions and concerns associated with anti-racism work and covers such content areas as “connecting identity with power,” understanding the five faces of oppression, resistance, and solidarity.

Staff are invited to participate in affinity groups that are broken into three sections: Black and African Diaspora, Non-Black People of the Global Majority, and White or people who do not identify as a Person of Color. These groups are intended to provide support and space to process for everyone throughout the duration of the training.

Storytime Band Kindergarten Library Card Drive

Children's Librarian Michael Kwende, along with the other members of the Storytime Band, Juan Castille and Donovan Russell, and volunteers Tienne and Mr. Tim, have initiated their fall Kindergarten Library Card Drive. They have visited John Muir, Malcolm X, and have Ruth Acty and Thousand Oaks scheduled as well. Zoe Williams, the School Librarian at John Muir, has spoken with all elementary school librarians who are checking in with their kindergarten teachers to schedule dates for the bands visit to their school sites. On the visits, the band reads stories, makes music and issues library cards. The programs are very interactive, with kids engaged in the music, dancing, talking to the band, and even singing their own songs on occasion. The Storytime Band got a write-up in the BUSD newsletter that goes out to every family in the District after the first of these events (pictured below).



The Storytime Band is performing at the Freight the first Thursdays (The Band will also be on break from this until January), Frances Albrier Community Center on the third Thursday of the month and visiting the BUSD Kindergarten classes on the second and fourth each month.

Thanks to a wonderful partnership established by the Storytime Band, the group provided outreach programs at a number of City parks this summer: Frances Albrier Community Center, Strawberry Creek Park, Live Oak Park, and Virginia-McGee Totland. As part of this partnership, the Storytime Band no longer has to submit applications for park use or sound permits. These are now handled by Parks staff. They also provide on-site staff assistance, chairs, access to electricity for the PA system, and other equipment. Congratulations and thank you to the Band for their leadership in forging this new partnership.

Library Card Design Contest Winners



The BPL held a [Library Card design contest](#) this Spring to promote kindness and libraries with new library cards for your wallet. This September, the Berkeley Public Library is supporting Library Card Sign-up Month by featuring five new card designs. This is a great time to get a new library card!



Contest Winner: Marissa Wu (they)

"I was inspired by the theme of "kindness" to imagine what Berkeley might look like if life was centered around the public library, reflecting the library's values of community care, diversity, and joy. I believe that a society that prioritizes kindness would be a place where multigenerational community can flourish, affordable housing and clean transportation are abundant, and all neighbors take care of each other. Additionally, as public libraries around the country are facing disinvestment, I wanted to depict a world in which the opposite was true, and our public institutions were fully supported and thriving."



Finalist: Andra Weber

"I was inspired by all the little kids I see visiting the North Berkeley Library where they flip joyfully through books, play in the atrium, and soak in all the library goodness. I noticed the library didn't have a card design

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that might appeal to kids. So I created the design to remind children of all ages, that the library is for everyone, kindness can be as simple as helping each other return library books and everyone deserves space to enjoy a good story...even cats and dogs!"



Finalist: Abigail Mullen

"I was going through a unit in school where we were learning about the cruelty committed to our First People throughout the United States. I had been thinking about what to submit regarding kindness when I came across an article in my school binder about First People. I wanted to submit an art piece that represented kindness no matter heritage or skin color, global kindness. I have been so inspired by all activists that work so hard to make the world a better place and hope I represented that in my submission. Love and kindness on a global level."

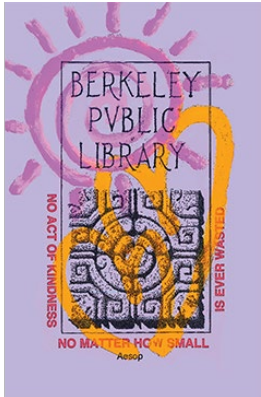


Finalist: Alejandra Martínez

"My inspiration for the mixed media artwork is to show that humanity is kindness. We all come in difference shapes and colors. Displaying unity and kindness in color."

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Finalist: Ronald Chung

"I decided to communicate the word and meaning of "kindness" by utilizing both symbols and letters. I settled on my interpretation of the Berkeley Public Library building covered with kindness symbols graffiti and an Aesop quote (emanating from inside the Library).

Ultimately, I imagined the user action of going to the library, selecting a book and then pulling out the library card to check out. During the check out process, I want the user to be strongly reminded to be kind the rest of the day."

CONTACT PERSON

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