



AGENDA
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting,
Wednesday, March 4, 2026
6:30 pm
LOCATION:
TAREA HALL PITTMAN-SOUTH BRANCH
1901 RUSSELL STREET, BERKELEY, CA 94703

Commission Members:

Beverly Greene, President; Tanir Ami, Vice President; Shoshana O’Keefe, and Amy Roth

To submit an e-mail comment during the meeting to be read aloud during public comment, email BOLT@berkeleyca.gov with the Subject Line in this format: “PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM ##.” Please observe a 150-word limit. Time limits on public comments will apply. Written comments will be entered into the public record.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to [Jacqui Rodriguez, Administrative Secretary, \(510\) 981-6102](mailto:Jacqui.Rodriguez@berkeleyca.gov). The Board of Library Trustees may take action related to any subject listed on the agenda.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A. Call to Order

B. Ceremonial Matters: *In addition to those items listed on the agenda, the President may add additional ceremonial matters.*

C. Public Comment

Speakers are allowed 3 minutes each for up to 10 speakers; if more than 10 individuals have filled out and submitted cards to speak, the time for all speakers will be reduced to 2 minutes per person and if more than 20 individuals have submitted speaker’s cards, the time per person will be reduced to one minute each, for a maximum of one hour of public comment.

D. Comments from Library Unions

For regular meetings of the BOLT, representatives from the three unions representing Library employees may address BOLT, with a total time limit of 15 minutes. If all three (3) unions have representatives present and wish to speak, each union shall receive 5 minutes to address BOLT. If only two (2) unions have representatives present and wishing to speak, each union shall receive 7.5 minutes to address BOLT, for a total of 15 minutes. If only one (1) union has representatives present and wishing to speak, that union shall receive 15 minutes to address BOLT. The Secretary shall, at the start of the Comment from Library Union item, ask union representatives who wish to speak to identify themselves and which union they represent. The Secretary shall then determine the appropriate allocation of speaking time according to the rules stated herein.

- i. SEIU, LOCAL 1021 (Maintenance and Clerical Units)
- ii. SEIU, LOCAL 1021 (Community Services and PTRLA Units)
- iii. Public Employees Union, LOCAL 1

E. Comments from Board of Library Trustees

II. PRESENTATION CALENDAR

A. Ballet and Books, UC Berkeley Chapter – Lily Eros and Sona Rae Wyse

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board will consider removal and addition of items to the Consent Calendar prior to voting on the Consent Calendar. All items remaining on the Consent Calendar will be approved in one motion.

A. Approve Minutes of the January 7, 2026 Special BOLT Meeting (Closed Session)

From: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution approving the January 7, 2026 Special BOLT meeting minutes (Closed Session) as presented.

B. Approve Minutes of the February 4, 2026 Regular BOLT Meeting

From: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution approving the February 4, 2026 Regular BOLT meeting minutes as presented.

C. Fiscal Year 2026 Purchase Authorization in Excess of Director of Library Services' Granted Authority Revised

From: Nneka Gallaread, Fiscal and Administrative Services Manager

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Library Services to enter into fiscal year 2026 purchase agreements and approve payments to specified vendors for services encompassing utility, telephone and intranet/internet services, library materials, state taxes, professional services, and office supplies that may exceed the director's delegated spending authority of \$50,000 for services and \$100,000 for goods, materials, and equipment.

IV. INFORMATION REPORTS

All items for discussion only and no final action.

A. FYTD 2026 – 2nd Quarter YTD Budget Report – Nneka Gallaread, Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager

B. Monthly Library Director's Report – Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

C. Director of Library Services Recruitment Update – Beverly Greene, President - Board of Library Trustees

D. Library Trustee Recruitment Update – Beverly Greene, President - Board of Library Trustees

V. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

These items are not scheduled for discussion or action at this meeting. The Board of Library Trustees may schedule these items to the agenda of a future meeting.

A. Discussion of items to be added to future agendas

VI. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Henry Bankhead, 510-981-6195, hbankhead@berkeleyca.gov.

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information.

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Berkeley Public Library Administration Office located at 2090 Kittredge Street - 3rd Floor Admin Wing, Berkeley, CA 94704.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:



This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was posted at the display case located near the walkway in front of the Maudelle Shirek Building, 2134 Martin Luther King Jr. Way and in front of the Central Public Library at 2090 Kittredge Street as well as on the Berkeley Public Library’s website, on 2/27/2026.

//s//

Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services
Serving as Secretary to the Board of Library Trustees

Communications:

Date	Name	Subject
2/22/2026	Ajay Gehlawat	Assaulted at North Branch library
2/10/2026	Ronald Tamm	REGARDING A NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE WITH ONE OF YOUR LIBRARIANS

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MINUTES

Berkeley Public Library
Board of Library Trustees Special Closed Session Meeting
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
6:00 PM
West Branch – 1125 University Avenue, Berkeley CA 94702

Board of Library Trustees:
Beverly Greene, President Shoshana O'Keefe
Tanir Ami, Vice President Amy Roth

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A copy of the agenda packet can be found at <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about/board-library-trustees>

1. **Call to Order:** 6:20 PM.

Present: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth.

Absent: None.

Also Present: June Garcia, June Garcia, LLC and Sari Feldman, June Garcia, LLC

2. **Public Comments:** 1 speaker.

II. CLOSED CALENDAR

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENT – Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957

Title of position being evaluated: Director of Library Services

The Board of Library Trustees recessed into closed session to conduct a public employee performance evaluation.

III. ACTION CALENDAR

A. Public Reports of actions taken pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)(1).

Action: No Action Taken.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 6:35 PM.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the special closed session meeting of January 7, 2025, as approved by the Board of Library Trustees.

//s// _____

Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services, acting as secretary to BOLT

Attachments: None.

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MINUTES

Board of Library Trustees

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

6:30 pm

West Branch - 1125 University Avenue, Berkeley CA 94702

Commission Members:

Beverly Greene, President; Tanir Ami, Vice President; Shoshana O'Keefe, and Amy Roth

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A copy of the agenda packet can be found at <http://www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about/board-library-trustees>

A. Call to order: 6:31 pm

Present: Trustees Ami, Greene, O'Keefe, and Roth

Absent: None.

Also Present: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services; Amanda Myers, Acting Deputy Director; Aimee Reeder, Communications Manager; Dia Penning, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Manager; Bill Kolb, Library Services Manager; Rudy Tapia, Circulation Services Manager; Robyn Sweet, Teen Services Librarian - North Branch; Alicia Abramson Information Technology Manger, Jacqui Rodriguez, Administrative Secretary

B. Ceremonial Matters: None.

C. Public Comments: 1 speaker.

D. Comments from Library Unions:

1. SEIU, LOCAL 1021 (Community Services and PTRLA Units) – 0 speakers
2. SEIU, LOCAL 1021 (Maintenance and Clerical Units) – 0 speakers
3. Public Employees Union, LOCAL 1 – 0 speakers

E. Comments from Board of Library Trustees:

1. **Beverly Greene**— She visited Central library over the weekend, and she was grateful for the hospitality of the BPL personnel. She thanks the staff for being so kind and reaching out to patrons who might need assistance, and she appreciates the help she received.
2. **Amy Roth**— Thanks to the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library for their undying support of staff. Trustee Roth reminds all that the \$150,000 that is given to the Berkeley Public Library comes in at fifty cents at a time, since that's how much books usually cost in their stores. Everyone wins. People can give their extra books, and others can get an incredible bargain

that helps an excellent cause.

II. PRESENTATION CALENDAR

- A. Youth Poet Laureate Presentation (PowerPoint):** Robyn Sweet, North Branch, Teen Services Librarian
Action: Received.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

Action: M/S/C (Trustee Roth/ Trustee O'Keefe) to adopt Resolution No. 26-005 to approve the consent calendar as presented.
Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None.

A. Approve Minutes of the January 7, 2026 Regular BOLT Meeting

From: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution approving the January 7, 2026 Regular BOLT meeting minutes as presented.

Contact: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-006 to approve the minutes of January 7, 2026 as submitted.

B. Contract Amendment: Contract No. 32000176 with Allied Universal Security Services

From: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Recommendation: Adopt a resolution to amend Contract No. 32000176 with Allied Universal Security Services for the provision of security services at the Library for an additional \$200,000 for a new not-to-exceed amount of \$1,950,000, and extend the contract term to expire on June 30, 2026. Security service during regular hours of operation at all Library locations is currently provided under an agreement set to expire February 28, 2026 with Allied Universal Security Services. The current contract, Contract No. 32000176 had a total not to exceed amount of \$1,750,000. This contract amendment will add \$200,000 for FY 2026 and extend the term of the contract to match the city-wide contract.

Contact: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-007.

C. Contract Amendment: No. 32000170, AMS.Net

From: Alicia Abramson, Library Information Technology Manager

Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution authorizing the Director of Library Services to amend to contract No. 32000170 with AMS.Net for the continued support and maintenance of network firewall hardware and software, including software updates, in an incremental amount of \$52,854 for a contracted not-to-exceed value of \$255,466 and to amend the Contract's date of expiration from March 3, 2026 to March 2, 2028.

Contact: Alicia Abramson, Library Information Technology Manager

Action: Adopted Resolution No. 26-008.

IV. ACTION CALENDAR

- A. Report on recruitment process to fill two vacancies on the Board of Library Trustees that was created by Trustee Villanueva's resignation and by the end of Trustee Roth's term. The Board of Library Trustees will approve an updated timeline for the recruitment.**

From: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Recommendation: With the resignation of Trustee Villanueva and the upcoming end of Trustee Roth's service to the board, it is time to initiate the process to fill both vacancies. The Board of Library Trustees will approve the proposed updated timeline for the process.

Contact: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Action: President Greene selected the ad hoc subcommittee to appoint two new trustees at tonight's BOLT Meeting. Consequently, the timeline that was previously provided has been revised to reflect this update. The ad hoc subcommittee is comprised of Trustee Roth and

President Greene.

M/S/C (Trustee O'Keefe/Trustee Ami) to adopt Resolution No. 26-009 with an amended timeline that is consistent with the February 4, 2026, appointment of President Greene and Trustee Roth as members of the Trustee Recruitment ad hoc subcommittee.

Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None.

V. INFORMATION REPORTS

A. Commission Hybrid Meetings Report – Alicia Abramson, Library Information Technology Manager

Action: Received.

B. Monthly Library Director's Report - Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services

Action: Received.

C. Director of Library Services Recruitment Update – Beverly Greene, President - Board of Library Trustees

Action: Received.

VI. AGENDA BUILDING

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 6:30 PM. Future meeting topics identified include finalizing hybrid BOLT meeting details.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Action: M/S/C (Trustee Ami/ Trustee Roth) to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes: Trustee Ami, Greene, O'Keefe and Roth. Noes: None. Abstentions: None. Absent: None.

Adjourned at 7:24 pm.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of Wednesday, February 4, 2026 as approved by the Board of Library Trustees.

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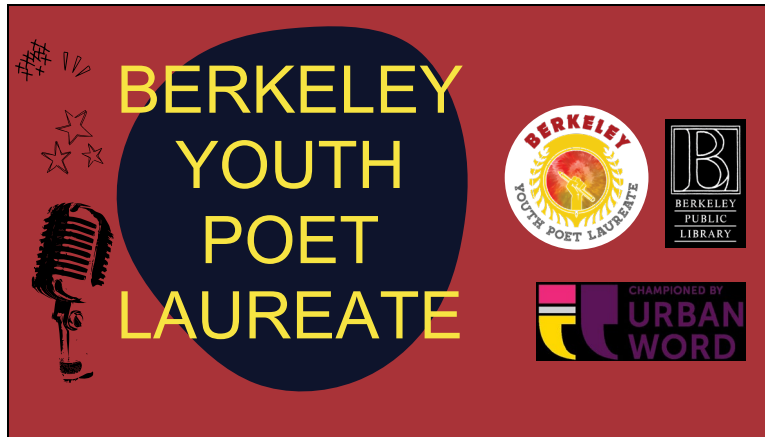
Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services, acting as secretary to BOLT

Attachments:

1. Youth Poet Laureate PowerPoint Presentation

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SLIDE 1



SLIDE 2



SLIDE 3



SLIDE 4

Just a few of their many accomplishments...

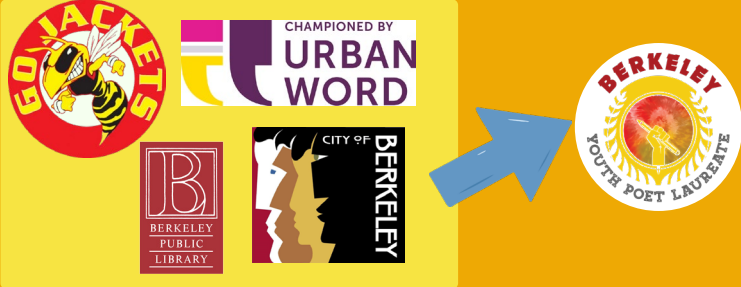
- Book displays**
- Special Poetry Month performance at Central Library**
- Writing workshops for kids
- Performed at State Senator Arreguin's swearing in ceremony
- Writing workshops at BUSD**
- Performed at Berkeley Mayor's Awards**
- Reading Buddies program
- Performed at Chapter 510
- Readers advisory handout**
- Performed at Guggenheim Center in NYC**

SLIDE 5



SLIDE 6

Since 2024, we have partnered with BHS, Civic Arts, and Urban Word to run the Berkeley Youth Poet Laureate Program



SLIDE 7

Outcomes

- Establishing lifelong connections to the library
- Showing teens that their voices are valued & encouraging them to continue creative pursuits
- Intergenerational programming
- Establishing mentoring system between Berkeley Poet Laureate and Youth Laureates
- Collaboration between partner organizations
- Publicity for the library - articles in Berkeleyside, DailyCal, and others

SLIDE 8

Goals for the future

- Increase number of applicants
- Increase programming throughout year to support cohort of teens
- Award honorarium or scholarship to winners
- Continue to find community partners to increase spread of program
- Continue to support past YPLs

SLIDE 9

Thank you!
Questions?



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CONSENT CALENDAR

March 4, 2026

To: Board of Library Trustees
From: Nneka Gallaread, Fiscal and Administrative Services Manager
Subject: Fiscal Year 2026 Purchase Authorization in Excess of Director of Library Services' Granted Authority Revised

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Director of Library Services to enter into fiscal year 2026 purchase agreements and approve payments to specified vendors for services encompassing utility, telephone and intranet/internet services, library materials, state taxes, professional services, and office supplies that may exceed the director's delegated spending authority of \$50,000 for services and \$100,000 for goods, materials, and equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT

The projected costs of these expenditures for these vendors are provisioned for in the Biennial Budget for fiscal year 2025 and 2026 adopted by the Board of Library Trustees on May 1, 2024 by BOLT Resolution No.: R24-077.

BACKGROUND

With passage of BOLT Resolution No.: 08-56, the Board of Library Trustees on June 10, 2008 authorized the Director of Library Services to enter into purchase agreements for services up to \$50,000; and, with passage of BOLT Resolution No.: 09-94, the Board of Library Trustees on October 14, 2009 authorized the Director of Library Services to enter into purchase agreements for goods, materials, and equipment up to \$100,000.

On May 1, 2024, the board approved BOLT Resolution No.: R24-077 adopting the FY 2025 & 2026 Budget, which included funds for services, goods, materials and equipment.

CURRENT SITUATION

Commencing July 1, 2025, the Library will begin processing fiscal year 2026 purchase requisitions for services, goods, materials, and equipment to support Library operations. See Attachment 2 to this report for purchase expenses planned to be in excess \$10,000: vendors associated with a contract number were individually presented before the board for authorization; items not associated with a contract number are presented in attached for authorization as a group as per the Resolution presented herein for consideration.

See Attachment 2 to this report for revised purchasing expenses planned to be in excess \$10,000: vendors associated with a contract number were individually presented before the board for

authorization; items not associated with a contract number are presented in attached for authorization as a group as per the Resolution presented herein for consideration.

Under current rules, the director must receive board approval for any purchase in excess of the authorized spending limit for any vendor once that vendor's cumulative fiscal year purchases exceed the authorized spending limit; and of which can be satisfied by either the execution of a contract or a consolidated authorization as pursuant to this request.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS

The alternative considered is to enter into initial purchase agreements not to exceed the director's spending authority and return to the board per purchase once cumulative purchases exceed the granted authority. It is the Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager's recommendation that the Director of Library Services be granted increased spending authority for the specified vendors – per Attachment 2– during FY 2026. This request is consistent with recognized best practices for purchasing procedures and adheres to the City's purchasing policy.

FUTURE ACTION

No future action is necessary.

CONTACT PERSON

Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services, 981-6109

Attachments

1. Resolution
2. FY 2026: Vendor Purchased Values > \$10k to for FY 2026 Eligible Vendors Revised

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION NO: 26-###

PURCHASE AUTHORIZATION FOR SELECTED VENDORS IN EXCESS OF DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES' GRANTED AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 PER ATTACHMENT 2

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees on June 10, 2008 passed Resolution No.: 08-56 authorizing the Director of Library Services to enter into purchase orders for services up to \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees on October 14, 2009 passed Resolution No.: 09-94 authorizing the Director of Library Services to enter into purchase orders for goods, materials, and equipment up to \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Trustees on May 1, 2024 passed Resolution No.: R24-077 adopting the Budget for all Library Funds' revenues and expenditures for fiscal year 2025 and 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Public Library purchases services, goods, materials and equipment in accordance with the adopted budget and in conformance with purchasing policies and practices of the City of Berkeley.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley authorizes the Director of Library Services to execute fiscal year 2026 purchase agreements and payment approvals for the specified vendors as named per Attachment 2 for services, materials, and supplies that may exceed the delegated spending authority.

ADOPTED by the Board of Library Trustees of the City of Berkeley during a regular meeting held on March 4, 2026 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

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FY 2026: Vendor Purchased Values > \$10k to for FY 2026 Eligible Vendors

FY26 List for BOLT-Approved Vendors (RVSD)

Vendor	Vendor Name	Funding Source					FY26 Requested Amount
		101	102	103	104	105	
27170	OVERDRIVE, INC	750,000.00					750,000.00
17128	MIDWEST TAPE	550,000.00					550,000.00
7887	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC	530,000.00					530,000.00
2224	BAKER & TAYLOR, INC.	500,000.00					500,000.00
30004	KANOPY LLC	375,000.00					375,000.00
54273	MIDWEST LIBRARY SERVICE	350,000.00					350,000.00
55865	LIBRARIA	250,000.00					250,000.00
55181	PAVE PREVENTION	200,000.00					200,000.00
4730	L.J. KRUSE CO.	150,000.00					150,000.00
13151	EBSCO INFORMATION SERV	100,000.00					100,000.00
2020	INGRAM LIBRARY SERVICES	100,000.00					100,000.00
55788	ZENBOOTH, INC	100,000.00					100,000.00
22588	CALIFA GROUP	90,000.00					90,000.00
8859	DELL MARKETING LP	80,000.00					80,000.00
1269	CPS HUMAN RESOURCE SE	80,000.00					80,000.00
	ORANGEBOY INC	75,000.00					75,000.00
2239	INNOVATIVE INTERFACES	51,000.00					51,000.00
55816	JUNE GARCIA LLC	50,000.00					50,000.00
7501	EBMUD	48,000.00					48,000.00
4886	OCLC	35,000.00					35,000.00
26277	PACIFIC LIBRARY PARTNER	34,000.00					34,000.00
24099	PEGASUS BOOKS	10,000.00			\$ 23,000.00		33,000.00
15841	LECTORUM PUBLICATIONS,	30,000.00			\$ 1,500.00		31,500.00
22038	AT&T	30,000.00					30,000.00
55910	VALSOFT IRELAND LIMITED	25,000.00					25,000.00
21636	T-MOBILE USA	25,000.00		\$ 3,500.00			28,500.00
54526	FREEDOM LIFTED LLC	28,000.00					28,000.00
17633	HOME DEPOT, INC	27,000.00					27,000.00
20451	AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOC	26,300.00					26,300.00
53437	RACE-WORK LLC	26,000.00					26,000.00
54091	CIRCLEUP	25,000.00					25,000.00
53970	REFORMA NATIONAL ASSO	25,000.00					25,000.00
17877	TK ELEVATOR CORPORATIO	24,000.00					24,000.00
27918	CENGAGE LEARNING INC	20,000.00					20,000.00
1959	JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC	20,000.00					20,000.00
55918	CHINITA COMPANI LLC	20,000.00					20,000.00
21648	YSERCO, INC.	19,000.00					19,000.00
26825	STUART'S CLEAR CHOICE	18,000.00					18,000.00
18618	VERIZON WIRELESS	17,000.00					17,000.00
30583	UNITY COURIER SERVICE INC	16,000.00					16,000.00
10804	ACCUTITE ENVIROMENTAL	16,000.00					16,000.00
55519	B.R.S. CONSTRUCTION	15,550.00					15,550.00
25947	AMAZON.COM-LIBRARY	10,000.00			\$ 5,300.00		15,300.00
22930	NEWSBANK, INC.	14,598.00					14,598.00
53982	NPTS, INC	12,000.00					12,000.00
26329	GOVCONNECTION	10,000.00					10,000.00

Revised 03.04.2026

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INFORMATION REPORTS

March 4, 2026

To: Board of Library Trustees
From: Nneka Gallaread, Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager
Subject: FYTD 2026 – 2nd Quarter YTD Budget Report

INTRODUCTION

Library fiscal year 2026 results at end of 2nd Quarter by Fund are as follows:

Fund	Revenue		Expenditures (xcl Encmb)	
	Actual 2Q	YoY	Actual 2Q	YoY
Library Tax (101)	17,323,791	26.7%	12,120,607	0.5%
Capital Projects (102)	-	-100%	1,706,148	-
Grants (103)	77,122	-1.7%	44,068	-8.4%
Friends & Gifts (104)	60,603	-51.7%	86,924	55.2%
Foundation (105)	17,060	-	15,293	-64.6%

(*Foundation Funding appears artificially low due to their direct contributions of over \$200,000 to the storytime remodel.)

BACKGROUND

FY 2025 and 2026 biennial budget that was adopted by the Board of Library Trustees on May 1, 2024 via approval of Resolution No.: 24-077.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

LIBRARY TAX FUND (101)

The Library Tax Fund includes revenue derived from the dedicated library tax, fines and fees, and miscellaneous revenue. At the end of the second quarter, revenues at \$17,323,791 increased by 26.7%. Second quarter year-to-date revenue from library tax receipts ended up year-over at \$3,646,102.

Library Tax Fund expenditures excluding encumbrances for period was \$12,120,607, climb of 0.5% from the prior year period, an increase of \$61,448. In comparison to the prior fiscal year period, second quarter combined salary and wage costs were up by 1.9%. Excluding encumbrances, non-labor year-over costs fell \$115,082 to \$2,823,944.

CAPITAL PROJECTS (102)

The Capital projects fund was a dormant fund that was repurposed to properly show all capital improvements for the Berkeley Public Library System. BOLT approved an initial transfer from the fund balance of the Tax Fund (101) for \$5 million dollars. We have planned to spend it over the FYs 25 & 26. At the end of the second quarter, revenues remain at \$0, as we are still spending from initial seed dollars. The expenditures for Capital Fund increased by 100%, landing at \$1,706,148 excluding encumbrances.

GRANTS FUND (103)

The Grants Fund is typically composed of funding from California State Library administered programs for the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) program, the Library Services and Technology Act, as well as any other governmental or private grant awarded to the Library. Currently, we have two grant programs in the Fund is the California Library Literacy Services that targets it support to the BerkeleyREADS adult literacy program and Lunch at the Library that provides lunch, with daily programming, during summer months for children and young adults under the age of 18.

At the end of the second quarter, revenues at \$77,122 decreased by 1.7% and expenditures at \$44,068 decreased by 8.4%.

FRIENDS & GIFTS FUND (104)

The Gifts Fund includes monies received through donations from the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library, the generosity of many individuals and organizations, and trusts.

The Fund's second quarter receipts were comprised of \$60,603 from Friends; representing one installment of the FY 2026 award. Expenditures at \$86,924 increased on a year-over basis by 55.2%. The Friends continuous support programs that spanned the interests from Children to Adults, and sustained the Summer Reading and City Reads that promote reading as an activity.

FOUNDATION FUND (105)

This Fund captures all funding support received either directly from the Berkeley Public Library Foundation or passed through the Foundation. During the second quarter, revenue of \$17,060 increased on a year-over basis by 100% with expenditures of \$15,293 for current open approved funding supported Library programs, decrease on a year-over basis by 64.6%.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS EXPENSES

Library expenditures have been on a rise since the height of the pandemic. Our current vacancy rate is 8% and staff being innovative in program offerings to the community. Overall expenditures increased by \$1,769,291 or 14.5% to \$13,973,041 for the second quarter.

CONTACT PERSON

Nneka Gallaread, Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager (email: ngallaread@berkeleyca.gov)

Attachments:

1. 2Q-FYTD 2026 Revenues by Fund
2. 2Q-FYTD 2026 Expenditures by Fund
3. 2Q-FYTD 2026 Revenue Breakdown Tax Fund
4. 2Q-FYTD 2026 Expenditure Breakdown Tax Fund

2Q-FYTD 2026 REVENUES BY FUND

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY : REVENUES DEC FY26									6	50.0%
Berkeley Public Library + CoB				Actuals					YTD DEC	
Elmnt- Object	Description	Bdgt ORG FY26	Bdgt RVSD FY26	Lib Dscr 101	Capital 102	Grants 103	Frnd/Gift 104	Fndtn 105	Actual FY26	% RVSD Rcvd
412110	Special Assessment T	32,576,532	33,750,805	17,316,977	0	0	0	0	17,316,977	51.3%
432110	Operating Grants - S	82,300	82,300	0	0	77,122	0	0	77,122	93.7%
434110	Operating Grants - O	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
443220	Refuse - Residential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
451310	Library Fines	40,000	40,000	6,755	0	0	0	0	6,755	16.9%
461230	Rentals - Oth Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
471110	Interest - Investments	0	0	0	0	0	8,937	0	8,937	0.0%
481110	Misc Rev - Donations	250,000	250,000	31	0	0	51,666	17,060	68,757	27.5%
483110	Misc Rev - Over/Short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
483990	Misc Rev - Other	32,000	32,000	29	0	0	0	0	29	0.1%
493110	Gain/Loss on Sale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
491011	Xfr fr 011	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
491101	Xfr In fr 101	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
491102	Xfr Out fr 102	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Berkeley Public Library + CoB		32,980,832	34,155,105	17,323,791	0	77,122	60,603	17,060	17,478,576	51.2%

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2Q-FYTD 2026 EXPENDITURES BY FUND

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY : EXPENDITURES DEC FY26									6	50.0%
Berkeley Public Library + CoB			Actuals+Encumbrances						YTD DEC	
Elmnt- Object	Description	Bdgt ORG FY26	Bdgt RVSD FY26	Lib Dscr 101	Capital 102	Grants 103	Frnd/Gift 104	Fndtn 105	Actual FY26	% RVSD Spent
511110	Wages - Reg - Monthly Misc	13,307,976	13,307,976	5,598,569	0	0	0	0	5,598,569	42.1%
511140	Wages - Reg - Other Work Com	0	0	21,037	0	0	0	0	21,037	0.0%
511170	Wages - Reg - Other Comp	0	0	(67)	0	0	0	0	(67)	0.0%
512110	Wages - Hourly	344,925	344,925	1,793	0	25,899	0	0	27,692	8.0%
513110	Wages - OT - Miscellaneous	13,446	13,446	97	0	0	0	0	97	0.7%
Prsnl Svcs-Salaries and Wages		13,666,347	13,666,347	5,621,429	0	25,899	0	0	5,647,328	41.3%
520110	Emp FB - Medical	2,807,232	2,807,232	1,017,732	0	0	0	0	1,017,732	36.3%
520120	Emp FB - Dental	274,252	274,252	93,298	0	0	0	0	93,298	34.0%
520130	Emp FB - Cash-In-Lieu	110,245	110,245	47,338	0	0	0	0	47,338	42.9%
520140	Emp FB - Life Insurance	7,634	7,634	3,040	0	0	0	0	3,040	39.8%
520150	Emp FB - Vision	2,196	2,196	2,582	0	0	0	0	2,582	117.6%
520210	Emp FB - Medicare	175,937	175,937	75,399	0	361	0	0	75,760	43.1%
520220	Emp FB - SRIP	337,414	337,414	36,468	0	0	0	0	36,468	10.8%
520310	Emp FB - Pers - Misc	4,697,261	4,464,335	2,057,028	0	0	0	0	2,057,028	46.1%
520350	Emp FB - Pars	11,059	11,059	800	0	971	0	0	1,771	16.0%
520410	Emp FB - Opeb - Retiree Medica	288,229	288,229	118,604	0	0	0	0	118,604	41.1%
520510	Emp FB - Workers Compensation	213,511	213,511	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
520520	Emp FB - Terminal Payout	247,219	247,219	103,757	0	0	0	0	103,757	42.0%
520530	Emp FB - Allowances	216	216	3,618	0	0	0	0	3,618	1675.0%
520540	Emp FB - Commuter Check	0	0	42,138	0	0	0	0	42,138	0.0%
520550	Emp FB - Other Fringe Benefits	174,228	174,228	78,933	0	0	0	0	78,933	45.3%
Prsnl Svcs-Fringe Benefits		9,346,633	9,113,706	3,680,734	0	1,333	0	0	3,682,066	40.4%
511160	Wages - Reg - Salary Savings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Personal Services-Employee		23,012,980	22,780,053	9,302,163	0	27,231	0	0	9,329,394	41.0%

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2Q-FYTD 2026 EXPENDITURES BY FUND

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY : EXPENDITURES DEC FY26									6	50.0%
Berkeley Public Library + CoB				Actuals+Encumbrances					YTD DEC	
Elmnt- Object	Description	Bdgt ORG FY26	Bdgt RVSD FY26	Lib Dscr 101	Capital 102	Grants 103	Frnd/Gift 104	Fndtn 105	Actual FY26	% RVSD Spent
612110	Prof Svcs - Lgl - Outsided Coun	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
612240	Prof Svcs - Mgmt Consulting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
612250	Prof Svcs - Temporary Agencies	0	1,275	1,275	0	0	0	0	1,275	100.0%
612310	Prof Svcs - Engineering Svcs	400,000	426,498	0	26,498	0	0	0	26,498	6.2%
612990	Prof Svcs - Miscellaneous	761,500	775,347	435,910	0	1,880	65,657	7,846	511,292	65.9%
613120	Tech Svcs - Equipment Maint	176,500	240,519	194,092	0	0	0	0	194,092	80.7%
613130	Tech Svcs - Software Maint	1,575,000	1,581,933	213,448	0	0	0	0	213,448	13.5%
613910	Tech Svcs - Hazmat Handling	2,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Purchased Prof & Tech Svcs		2,915,000	3,027,573	844,725	26,498	1,880	65,657	7,846	946,605	31.3%
621110	Utilities - Gas/Electric	540,000	540,000	506,000	0	0	0	0	506,000	93.7%
621120	Utilities - Water/Sewer	48,800	48,800	50,700	0	0	0	0	50,700	103.9%
621130	Utilities - Refuse	24,500	24,500	13,365	0	0	0	0	13,365	54.5%
622110	Custodial - Janitorial Svcs	440,000	440,000	319,318	0	0	0	0	319,318	72.6%
624110	Property Repairs & Maint	1,159,000	1,161,604	347,182	40,000	0	0	0	387,182	33.3%
625110	Rental of Real Property	3,750	12,750	0	0	0	12,000	0	12,000	94.1%
625120	Rental of Equipment	10,075	17,077	11,748	0	0	0	0	11,748	68.8%
632110	Comm Svcs - Tele - Landline	365,000	468,194	158,644	0	4,000	0	0	162,644	34.7%
632120	Comm Svcs - Tele - Cellular	17,100	18,631	16,531	0	0	0	0	16,531	88.7%
632190	Comm Svcs - Other	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
633110	Advertising	46,000	46,000	14,974	0	0	700	0	15,674	34.1%
634110	Train and Conf - Train Costs	110,000	114,325	248,704	0	0	0	0	248,704	217.5%
634120	Train and Conf - Registration	40,000	40,000	10,629	0	0	200	0	10,829	27.1%
634210	Travel - Airfare	10,000	10,000	8,874	0	0	0	0	8,874	88.7%
634220	Travel - Lodging	10,000	10,000	19,538	0	0	0	0	19,538	195.4%
634230	Travel - Other Transportation	0	0	2,435	0	0	9	0	2,444	0.0%
634240	Travel - Meals	0	0	4,610	0	0	0	0	4,610	0.0%
635110	Printing and Binding	56,661	58,655	1,900	0	0	4,094	0	5,994	10.2%
636990	Grant Pmts - Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
637110	Gov Pmts - Permit Fees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
637990	Gov Pmts - Misc Fee and Taxes	5,000	5,000	4,615	0	0	0	0	4,615	92.3%
639110	Fees - Bank Fees	1,000	1,000	337	0	0	0	0	337	33.7%
639120	Fees - Prof Dues and Fees	50,250	50,250	43,906	0	0	0	0	43,906	87.4%
639130	Courier and Delivery Services	10,000	10,000	18,500	0	0	0	0	18,500	185.0%
639990	Other Services	98,150	108,150	6,784	0	0	4,100	0	10,884	10.1%
Other Purchased Services		3,050,286	3,189,936	1,809,294	40,000	4,000	21,103	0	1,874,397	58.8%

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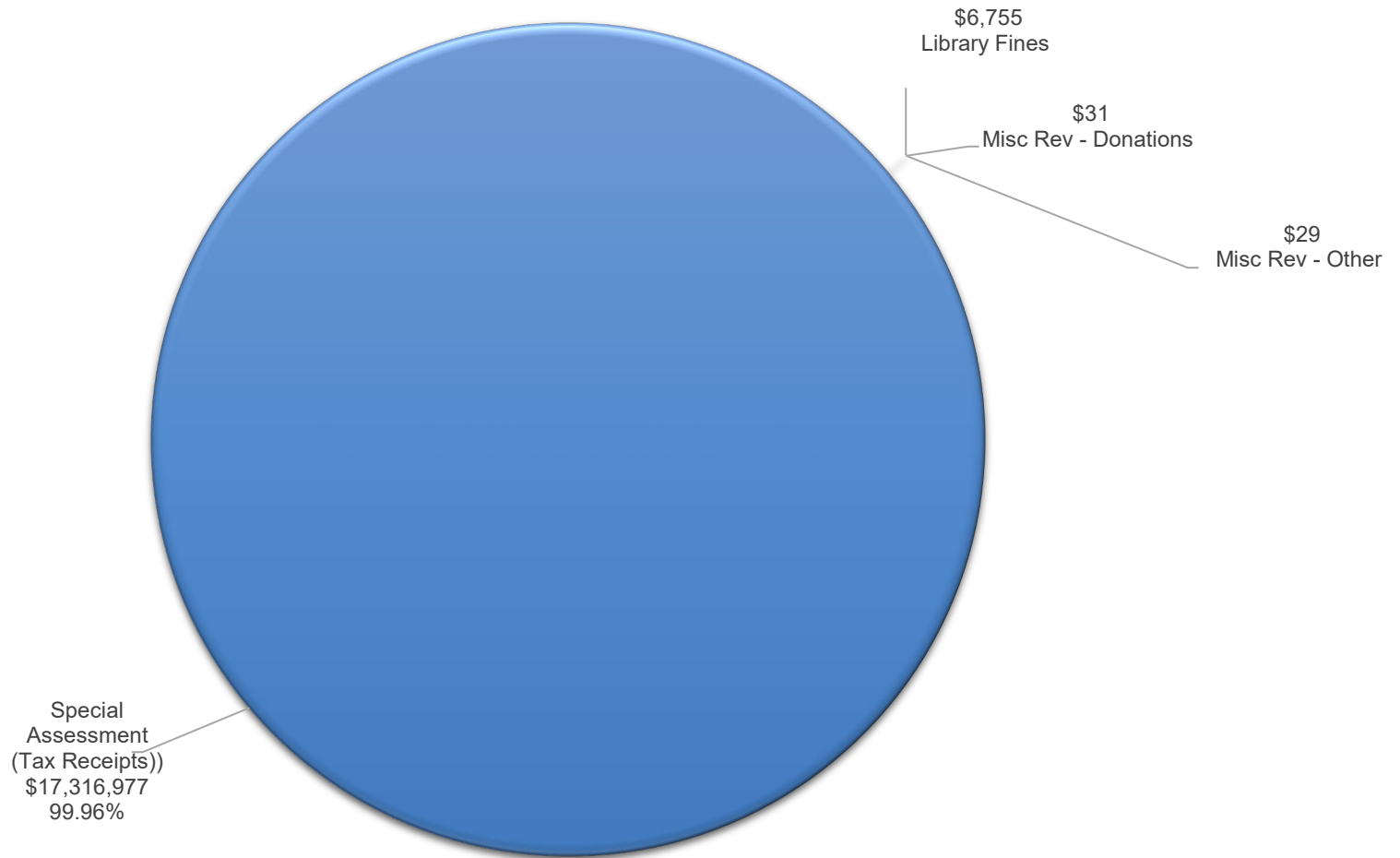
2Q-FYTD 2026 EXPENDITURES BY FUND

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY : EXPENDITURES DEC FY26									6	50.0%
Berkeley Public Library + CoB			Actuals+Encumbrances						YTD DEC	
Elmnt- Object	Description	Bdgt ORG FY26	Bdgt RVSD FY26	Lib Dscr 101	Capital 102	Grants 103	Frnd/Gift 104	Fndtn 105	Actual FY26	% RVSD Spent
641110	Supplies - Office	55,987	62,711	47,977	0	0	0	6,656	54,633	87.1%
641120	Supplies - Postage	8,000	8,875	4,375	0	0	0	0	4,375	49.3%
642120	Suppl - Field - Tools and Part	15,780	15,780	18,819	0	0	0	0	18,819	119.3%
642990	Suppl - Field - Other	232,725	249,751	128,032	0	18,014	41,490	8,637	196,172	78.5%
643110	Supplies - Books and Subscrip	2,432,000	2,603,396	2,473,851	0	0	0	0	2,473,851	95.0%
644110	Supplies - Food - Non-Employee	1,200	1,219	0	0	0	13,505	0	13,505	1107.8%
Supplies		2,745,692	2,941,733	2,673,053	0	18,014	54,996	15,293	2,761,355	93.9%
651110	Non-Cap - Comp, Software, & OfE	217,000	319,260	163,585	0	0	0	0	163,585	51.2%
651120	Non-Cap - Furniture & Fixture	0	7,359	20,368	0	0	0	0	20,368	276.8%
651990	Non-Cap - Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Property Under Cap Limit		217,000	326,619	183,953	0	0	0	0	183,953	56.3%
662110	Cap - FA - Buildings	1,700,000	1,700,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
663110	Cap - FA - Impr Othr Than Bldg	0	682,125	0	2,298,125	0	0	0	2,298,125	336.9%
664110	Cap - FA - Machinery & Equip	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
664120	Cap - FA - Vehicles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
664130	Cap - FA - Furniture & Fixture	50,000	50,000	19,536	0	0	0	0	19,536	39.1%
664140	Cap - FA - Computer Equipment	250,000	250,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
666110	Cap - FA - Intangibles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Property		2,000,000	2,682,125	19,536	2,298,125	0	0	0	2,317,661	86.4%
670140	Int Svc - Tech Cost Alloc Fund	179,624	179,624	89,813	0	0	0	0	89,813	50.0%
670150	Int Svc - Mail Services	1,764	1,764	882	0	0	0	0	882	50.0%
670160	Int Svc - City Vehicle Replace	0	0	4,800	0	0	0	0	4,800	0.0%
670180	Int Svc - City Vehicle Fuel/Ma	15,000	15,000	11,236	0	0	0	0	11,236	74.9%
670190	Int Svc - City Pkg Permits	500	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
670240	Int Svc - Refuse Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Internal Services		196,888	196,888	106,731	0	0	0	0	106,731	54.2%
Other Expenses		11,124,866	12,364,874	5,637,292	2,364,623	23,893	141,755	23,139	8,190,702	66.2%
Berkeley Public Library + CoB		34,137,846	35,144,927	14,939,455	2,364,623	51,124	141,755	23,139	17,520,097	49.9%

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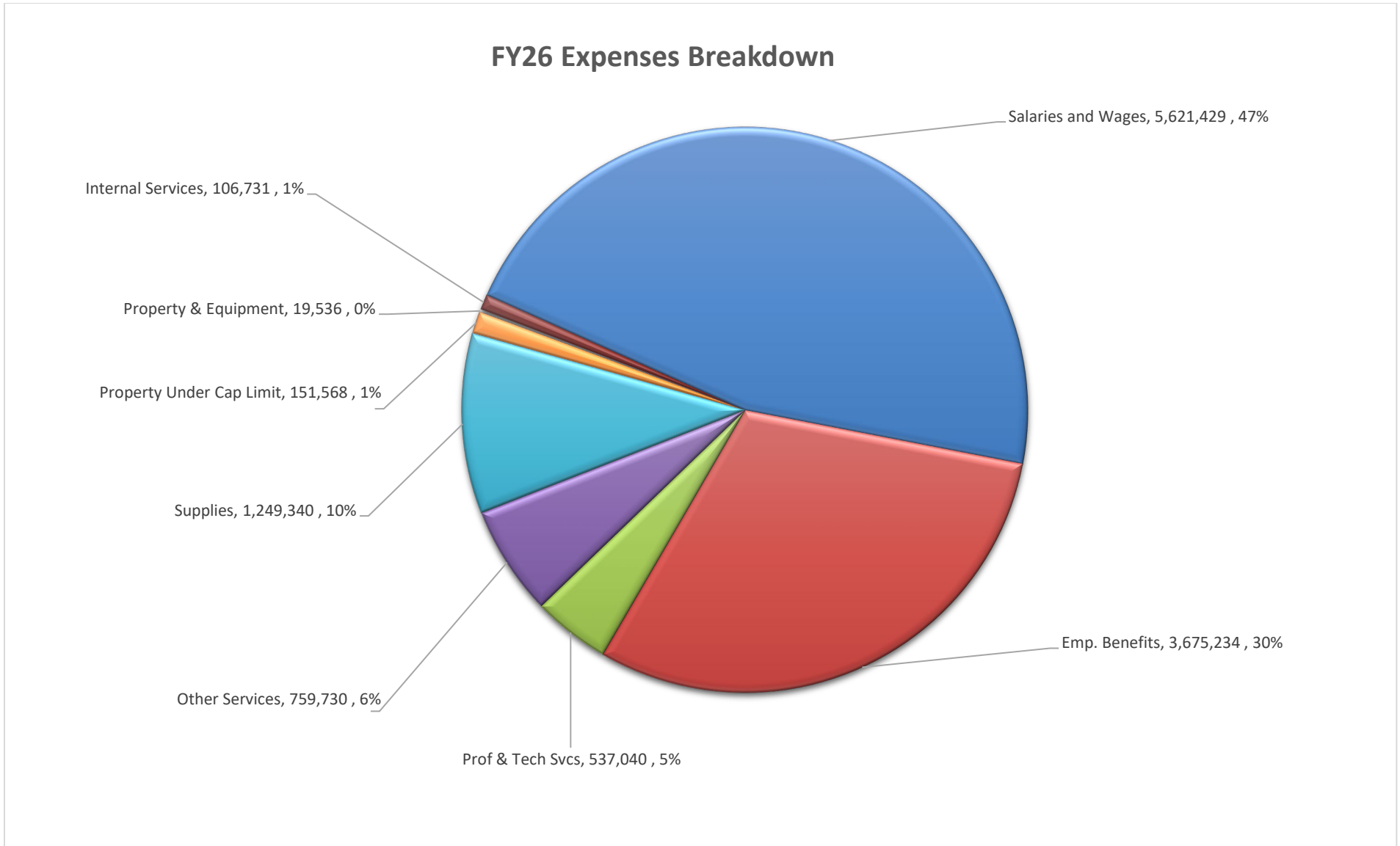
LIBRARY TAX FUND (101): FY26 REVENUE Breakdown

FY26 Revenue Breakdown



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LIBRARY TAX FUND (101): FY26 EXPENDITURES Breakdown



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INFORMATION REPORT
March 4, 2026

To: Board of Library Trustees
 From: Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services
 Subject: Director's Report

Vacancies:

Position Name	Location	FTE	Notes
Director of Library Services	Administration	1.0	Pending update from recruiter
Senior Human Resources Analyst	Administration	1.0	Recruitment in Progress
Supervising Librarian	Art and Music	1.0	Recruitment in Progress
Library Specialist II	Reference	1.0	Recruitment in Progress
Supervising Librarian	Reference	0.75	Recruitment in Progress
Library Aide	Circulation	0.75	Pending recruitment
Mail and Courier Services Aide	Circulation	1.0	Pending interviews
Librarian II	THPS	0.75	Going to offer of work
Library Assistant	THPS	0.75	Recruitment in Progress
New Positions			
Tool Lending Specialist	Tool Library	1.0	On hold pending the Tool Lending Library opening on Sundays
Supervising Librarian	Tool Library	1.0	On hold pending the Tool Lending Library opening on Sundays

At this time, our vacancy rate is 8%.

Central HVAC Update:

The construction of HVAC on Kittredge street side is finished. We are still working with the contractor and the City of Berkeley inspector to finalize the set up of the system in it's entirety and it's connection to the building management system. The construction is also complete on the Bancroft side, but contractor is also trouble shooting the entire system in terms of how the ducting, airflow and static

pressure sensor are interacting. We expect these issues to be resolved as soon as possible, rendering the central location fully function as cooling center for future heat waves.

Story time Room Remodel Update

We're excited to share that all casework has now been successfully installed as well as all handles and knobs for the cabinets. With this milestone complete, the remaining major items are just the 3form (Tree) panels and donor signage. Looking at the schedule moving forward, we estimate a 'mid-March' timeline for the arrival of the last 3form elements, at which point we will be able to install the panels and the donor signage.

Part of the furniture should also be arriving in March with the final pieces being scheduled to be delivered in April.

Central Library

An amazing time was had by all at the annual Authors Dinner on February 22, 2026. The house was packed with appearances by Mayor Ishii and an astounding constellation of local authors as well as local luminaries. Shout out to Kathy Huff and the Berkeley Public Library Foundation Board for hosting this incredible event every year to support the library.

Tax Prep is going strong at central with the team of AARP tax preparers meeting with community members to help prepare their tax filings.

On February 10, we had the Electronic Music-Making Studio featuring the use of Ableton Live, a popular, professional level, music creation software. It comes pre-loaded with tons of sounds and digital instruments for you to play with and create your own music.

In the Stax featured the Dave Rocha Trio playing jazz standards and original tunes on February 14th.



Multiple staff supported a Spanish language college fair for first generation college seekers at Berkeley City College on Saturday, 2/21. Entitled Caminos al Éxito: Designing Your Future.

On February 28 we are hosting The Anatomy of a Song Hosted by violinist, vocalist and teacher Lila Sklar who will expand your musical horizons. Using mindfulness and close listening, discussion and sharing, analysis and exploration, Lila will guide attendees through a deep dive into selected pieces of music to broaden their understanding and appreciation of the rich world of sound.

North

North Branch programming this month was highlighted by special Valentine's Day events, a Wellness Workshop and Fiber Arts programming.

We hosted Ace Palomino for a Prince-inspired Drag Storytime for kids. Ace shared Prince's music and stories. Also, local teacher and writer Tamar Senyak for a Valentine's Day Poetry workshop as well. Both events had small but enthusiastic and appreciative audiences. Staff shared that "Tamar set up different stations with card making and haiku writing and raffled off two boxes of chocolate. The four attendees ranged in age from preteen to adult, and all had a great time. There was a lot of chatter and laughter the whole time and they asked if we would host it again next year."

We had another beginner's sewing class with Kathe Boyd and had a full and successful event using the Library's sewing machines. Later in the month, she is hosting Christina Edwards for a Weaving Workshop. We continue to have great success with Comunico as a registration portal.

North hosted several other successful Children's programs. Staff shared, "The partnership with Live Oak Community Center has been going well. On average, I've been reading to a group of 15 children and the staff are very appreciative of the partnership with the library. I'm been making the effort to bring crafts or activities that tie in with the theme of storytime. For example, when I read Lunar New Year books, I prepared a lucky money envelope craft for the kids.

The Kids Music Play Session has been well attended with an average of 34 attendees so far. The kids especially like play the Djembe drums. Two parents told me that they appreciate this group setting where kids can socialize, learn to share, and make music. It was an opportunity for kids to explore and gain some understanding on how music/sound is made.

The Underground Railroad Paper Quilt craft had a small turn out with 4 kids participating. One parent was a quilter, and the child recognized some of the patterns. I overheard one older sibling tell the younger one (who was working on the paper quilt) that they learned about the Underground Railroad Quilt last year in school. They explained how the patterns worked."

Our Literally How series is continuing; this month we covered first aid readiness and preparing for emergencies.

The Community Wellness Dance Class continued with some new and younger students joining in February. We have this program scheduled to end in March with Tai Chi beginning in April.

North will close out the month with a Skin-focused herbal wellness class taught by Berkeley Poet Laurate and Herbalist, Hanan Masri. We will also host the Repulsive Reads Book Discussion and host The Movement, a social issues focused book discussion.

West

February has been a busy month at West. Regular programming continued with Bilingual Baby Bounce and Stay and Play, Teen Game Night, Dungeons and Dragons and the Mystery Book Club. Unfortunately, the Friday, February 20 and Baby Bounce was cancelled. However, we still welcomed around 30 parents and children for an extended Stay-n-play. We will be continuing the Bilingual Baby Bounce for the remainder of the month and through March. Our Tuesday Tech Help sessions remain very popular, and we are looking forward to expanding this service with the aid of students from UC Berkeley who last offered tech help in the fall of 2025. Reading Buddies came to West this February, matching young, beginning readers with teen volunteers every Thursday. MOCHA has also found a home at West this month, helping 38 young patrons in bringing their creative projects to life.

We celebrated Black History Month with a screening of the documentary, Streetlight Harmonies on the history of Doo-Wop and offered a Black Histories/Futures Art program for all ages. Eight patrons joined us for the latter and made personalized decoupage candles. On Wednesday, February 25, a program on the history of jazz for children with Mr. Boom Boom will continue the celebration.

On Saturday the 21st, the Alternative Theater Ensemble returned to the West Branch for a special, interactive, multimedia performance and conversation. Thirty-five people attended. The AARP Tax Help program is in full swing this month with questions answered and reservations made daily for the Friday afternoon program which will last through April. Will continued his regular outreach efforts this month at Berkeley Youth Alternatives, and Helios Senior Residence.

A new display calendar has now been implemented and staff have contributed a Queer Love themed Valentine's Day display, a Black History Month display in both the adult and children's section, and a Lunar New Year Display. Displays will be updated monthly or even biweekly as appropriate. Collection maintenance efforts continue in the adult and children's sections. Dead and Grubby items have been reviewed, clearing up valuable space for popular titles to better circulate. Planning has begun to take shape for a possible expansion of the popular Children's Graphic Novel Section. Signage has been updated on the Study room and Community room to provide greater transparency to patrons.

Tarea Hall Pittman South – Tool Lending Library

In February we began hosting AARP volunteers to offer tax filing assistance appointments on Mondays and Wednesdays. Library staff are responsible for fielding appointment intakes, questions and cancellations, while the appointments are led by AARP volunteers. As in previous years, these tax assistance appointments are in high demand from patrons. We will be hosting this program through mid-April. We hosted herbalist Hanan Masri who led a hands-on workshop about herbal teas to strengthen immunity.

For Black History Month this year the Programming Committee chose the focus of celebrating Black authors and artists. THPS hosted two author talks: Wendy M. Thompson who wrote *Black California Gold*, and Rob Liu-Trujillo who is a local picture book author and illustrator.

On Valentine's Day we hosted opera singer Gabrielle Lochard to perform an opera matinee at the library, which brought an enthusiastic inter-generational audience. We hosted two programs in partnership with Bike East Bay: Bike Share 101 Workshop and Guided Ride, and E-Bike Safety.

Other programs included: Teen Hangout, Autistic Connections, Jazz Lounge, Community Craft Circle, South Berkeley Sewing Circle, Ukulele Club, Social Services Drop-In, Ballet and Books, Baby Toddler Storytime.

The new computer carrels, generously provided by the Library Foundation, have been in use for one month and we have received positive feedback from patrons and staff, and are seeing decreased patron conflict due to the increased privacy and personal space provided by the carrels. Thank you, Foundation!

Claremont

We held the first of his three Astrology programs with Sara Weinberg and it was well-attended and positively received, with 20 attending and everyone planning to come back for the next two sessions.

The Storytime Band had another great month of outreach, performing at the Freight and at another BUSD elementary school, Thousand Oaks. The Storytime Band was again invited by COB Parks, Recreation, and Waterfront to perform at Camp Tuolumne during their 2026 Tot Week, scheduled for July 27–30, 2026. They'll present highlights at the October BOLT meeting.

In mid-February, we held the first of two planned sessions of The Prom Dress Pop-Up where high schoolers tried on and took home prom dresses. Dresses were donated by the Berkeley community and more than half of the donated dresses were taken during the event. Attendees stated how much fun they had trying on dresses with their friends and were thankful for the event. We are looking forward to the second and final session on March 7th. (below left)

Claremont hosted Sam Sax at Clearly Meant, Claremont's guest poet series, in February, drawing a good crowd with lots of questions.

We held a Chinese Brush Painting program with Pauline Tsui for Lunar New Year at Claremont which drew 14 attendees from early 20s to seniors. Pauline began with a brief, informative talk with slides on Lunar New Year and the ways it is celebrated throughout China and then offered an hour-long hands-on brush painting class, with attendees painting peonies and horses (for the year of the fire horse). The class was enthusiastically received and folks are already signing up for her next class with us in May. (above right)

The Rising Readers Book clubs met for all three cohorts. The spotlight this month is on the Third-Grade cohort, which had a dumpling potluck with the book discussion (a work by Grace Lin this month in honor of Lunar New Year). Parents brought dumplings and we provided candy and mandarin oranges to

round out the festive, lively celebration. There were also colorful table and wall decorations, courtesy of staff.

We screened the award winning "This World Is Not My Own" for Black Heritage Month. It was the first movie we held in a while for adults. There were requests we bring back movie night, and everyone seemed to enjoy the movie, which is also in Kanopy and a spectacular show.

Twenty-one people joined us for Christina Berteau's citizen-scientist talk on the Water Cycle on Valentine's day, a love-letter to the planet that included hopeful information about work being done to re-green the planet, lower temperatures, and get rivers flowing again worldwide.

We also hosted three sessions of Read to a Dog in February. Kids love this event.

CONTACT PERSON

Henry Bankhead, Acting Director of Library Services, Library, 510-981-6195