WWW.ALTADENALIBRARY.ORG
@ALTADENALIBRARY

MAIN LIBRARY
600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena 91001
Phone: (626) 798-0833
Fax: (626) 798-0425
Monday - Tuesday
10:00am - 9:00pm
Wednesday - Saturday
10:00am - 6:00pm
Closed Sundays

BOB LUCAS BRANCH LIBRARY
2659 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena 91001
Phone: (626) 798-8338
Fax: (626) 798-3988
Monday - Tuesday
10:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday - Thursday
10:00am - 8:00pm
Friday
10:00am - 6:00pm
Closed Weekends
FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT
IRA BERSHATSKY

My name is Ira Bershatksy and I am the President of the Altadena Library Board of Trustees. I get asked who or what is the Board of Trustees and what do they do? There are five of us on the Board and we are elected or appointed officials subject to the California Brown Act Open Meetings Law. This means our fourth Monday of the month meetings are open to the public. The five members of the Board are myself who is the President, Adalia Zelada-Garcia who is the Secretary, and Trustees John McDonald, Gwendolyn McMullins, and Armando Zambrano. Our photos are on the west stairwell wall as you enter the main library from the lower parking lot.

What we do is set policies for the Altadena Library District. This can include hiring a Library District Director when that becomes necessary, providing an annual performance review of the District Director, the overall compensation plan for the staff, working on and approving the Strategic Plan and annual budget, approving expenditures over $10,000, and working on and approving a facilities plan.

In general, what we do not do is programming (which we leave to the District’s outstanding staff), employee hiring and review, and the day-to-day operations of the libraries.

A major success this year was our approval of the main library renovation which was celebrated at the 50th Anniversary Celebration. An event which was successfully planned and carried out by dedicated staff and volunteers. Feel free to say hello when you see any of the Board of Trustees members. Thank you.

FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR
MINDY KITTAY

Friends, as I reflect on this past year, I am filled with sincere excitement and pride. We are pleased to share in this report the many achievements that make our Library a leader in our community and amongst libraries across the nation. This special library district has grown so much in a short amount of time, and we are superbly poised to launch into the future and reach even more of Altadena in meaningful ways.

We are proud to have grown into a library whose impact reaches past the boundaries of our physical locations, into and around the community it serves. Through tangible upgrades to our facilities in the Phase I Renovation, intentional and creative programming, and an overall shift in perspective to focus on our community’s aspirations, the Altadena Library District is revolutionizing how it serves the community. Everyday, thousands of patrons, of all ages and stages, explore our comprehensive catalog of materials. Together, we gain new skills and knowledge at programs like sewing classes, story times, films screenings, and educational lectures. We convene, dance, and enjoy local talent at our free concerts. We connect with one another in meaningful discussions about community development. We never tire in our shared effort to consistently better Altadena.

As one of the longest standing institutions in our community, Altadena Library District has a special role, both independently and in partnership with key community organizations, in meeting the community’s wants and needs. Through service and community leadership, it is our mission and privilege to bring people and ideas together in new and innovative ways. With the support of our talented team, volunteers, Board members, and our dedicated community, I look to the future with hope and great anticipation.
COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS AND “TURNING OUTWARD”

In 2017, the American Library Association launched its “Libraries Transforming Communities” initiative, urging libraries to shift their focus to their communities’ needs. Using the “turned outward” approach of the Harwood Institute of Public Innovation as a guide, the Altadena Library District brought Community Conversations to Altadena, revolutionizing the way the Library serves its constituents.

PHASE I RENOVATION

As part of the Library’s strategic plan, optimizing its facilities and providing a safe, clean, and modern space for its patrons are key priorities. Throughout the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, crucial updates were made to both the Main Library and the Bob Lucas Branch Library, refreshing the Altadena Library District’s worn buildings and fixtures. The Phase I Renovation launched an ongoing effort to bring the District’s historical buildings into the 21st century and to equip our facilities to best serve the community they represent.

MAIN LIBRARY’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

One of Altadena’s longest standing institutions, Altadena Library District has been serving its community in some capacity since the early 1900s. After many years of growth, the Main Library building on Mariposa was finally built in 1967, and for the past 50 years, the building has faithfully served its community. 50 years later, in 2017 the Altadena Library District celebrated its 50th Anniversary with specially planned community building events that commemorated the many milestones the District has accomplished at its special Main Library building.
**A TIMELINE OF ACHIEVEMENT**

**JULY 2016**
- Joined by 50 eco-minded patrons and Senator Mike Antonovich, the District dedicated its new Water Conservation Demonstration Garden.
- Local teens boogied for exciting prizes in the Library’s Teen Just Dance competition!

**AUGUST 2016**
- Photographer Ken Jones presented a slideshow of some of his 7,000 photographs he has taken across the country at American Ghosts: Ghost Signs of the United States. Because of the popularity of this subject matter and community demand, Ken returned later in the year to repeat this program!

**OCTOBER 2016**
- A packed Community Room was fascinated by Minna Quesada’s presentation celebrating the life of Frida Kahlo, including art work, a lecture, and a film.
- Assemblymember Chris Holden, as part of the First 5 California Official Reading Tour, led a special story time for local kids in our Community Room.
- Over 300 local music lovers were thrilled by Upstream’s reggae tunes at the first Second Saturday concert of the 2016-2017 season.
- The Bob Lucas Branch launched a computer literacy training for its English as a Second Language (ESL) volunteers.
- Creation of the Small Meeting Room off the Children’s wing allowed us to offer our patrons the first quiet study or meeting space in the Main Library.

**NOVEMBER 2016**
- The District received a grant of over $18,200 that was applied to the purchase of the state-of-the-art Nomad LT Q Multimedia Podium for the new technology space called the FabLab.

**DECEMBER 2016**
- Just in time for the holidays, the District upgraded its Wi-Fi to 2G to improve the public’s ability to seamlessly browse the Internet while in the Main Library and the Branch.
- Altadena Library was the headquarters for the 2016 Open Studios Art Tour, acting as host for the opening reception and a gallery for art lovers to visit during the tour.

**JANUARY 2017**
- January 1st marked the beginning of the Main Library building’s 50th Anniversary year.
- Throughout Altadena, the Library engaged in meaningful Community Conversations with hundreds of residents working together to better our community (see page 4).

**FEBRUARY 2017**
- The District continued “turning outward” by including two Spanish Community Conversations to reach our Spanish-speaking neighbors.
- Aspiring poets gathered to learn from poet Suzanne Lummis at the Library’s Poetry Workshop.

**MARCH 2017**
- An extensive Phase I Renovation launched at the Main Library (see page 5), optimizing the beloved and worn building for future use. During the brief closure, Library staff engaged in professional trainings and seminars to also optimize the team’s skills and customer service capacity.

**APRIL 2017**
- In culmination of the Community Conversations initiative, over 125 residents gathered for the Library’s Town Hall Meeting to discuss the results of the Conversations and to form action teams around the identified priorities.
- The annual Poetry & Cookies event took place at the Main Library, launching the publication of the 2016 Altadena Poetry Review Anthology, featuring talented poets from across Southern California.

**MAY 2017**
- The Main Library reopened to the public at the conclusion of the Phase I Renovation!
- Residents from across the community attended the Friends of the Altadena Library Annual Booksale.

**JUNE 2017**
- Thousands of Altadena residents gathered at Growing Up “Dena, a celebration of the Main Library’s 50th Anniversary, Grand Reopening, and Summer Reading Kick-Off.
- Local author and scholar Jeremy Tervolin provided a fascinating keynote address at the Friends of the Altadena Library’s annual meeting.
SUPPORTERS 2016-2017

The 2016-2017 Supporters list includes generous contributions, both financial and in-kind, from individuals and organizations during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

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Natural Food Grocery & Cafe
Open Road Bicycle Shop
Park Bench Grill
Pasadena Sandwich Company
Pizas of Venice
Rhythms of the Village
Sidewalk Cafe
Steve’s Pets
Super King Market
Tacos Poncito
The Bunny Museum
Trader Joe’s
Webster’s Community Pharmacy
Willena Hat Co.

For just under a decade, the mission of the AltaLibrary Foundation has been crucial to the District’s growth - to support and enrich the facilities, resources and services of the AltaLibrary District through fundraising and advocacy in the community.

With assets exceeding $500,000, the AltaLibrary Foundation provides opportunities for involvement that are altruistic, patriotic, and community-building. The raising and allocation of key funds touches the lives of thousands of community members in AltaDevice and beyond. With an actively engaged Board of Trustees, talented staff, and enthusiastic patrons, the District and its Foundation are in the best possible position to take their impact to the next level.

Just as any organization has its challenges, so does the AltaLibrary District and Facilities. With limited capital funds and facilities space, the District’s goals and the amount of people it can reach are limited. The Foundation hopes to expand the District’s capacity for growth in coming years by raising funds to address the strategic objectives of sustainable funding, community outreach, facilities, lifelong learning, and technology.

LEADERSHIP

Cynthia Carmona
Mark Mariscal
Susan Bowen
Mindy Kilty
LaFontaine
Gwendolyn McMullins
Lola Warlick-Bryant

Thank you to all of our generous supporters! The work of the AltaLibrary District would not be possible without your heartfelt help!
2016-2017 FINANCIALS

**REVENUE**
- Fees & Passports: $103,464 (3%)
- Interest & Misc.: $907 (0%)
- Donations & Grants: $47,024 (12%)
- Property Taxes: $780,905 (71%)
- Sales Tax: $82,370 (6%)

**EXPENSES**
- Library Materials: $31,803 (1%)
- Library Services: $425,672 (12%)
- Operating Supplies & Misc.: $413,064 (12%)
- Professional & Technical: $367,249 (9%)
- Personnel Expenses: $1,470,773 (41%)
- Capital & Depreciation: $45,123 (1%)

Financial Highlights:
- The District ended the fiscal year with approximately $2.9 million in cash and investments.
- Property and parcel taxes were 0.51% higher than the previous year.
- Thanks to the District’s ability to keep expenditures under budget even through the Phase 1 Renovation, it was not necessary to transfer in funds from the District’s Reserves.

WE ARE ALTADENA

Another year passes, and our important work continues. Every program, resource, and service we provide has the community of Altadena in mind. Just as Altadena’s beauty is reflective of the diversity of our community, so is the joy and hope found in our Library District. From the laughter that rings through the air in our Children’s section, to the quiet flipping of pages in our Main Library and Branch, to the melodies and cheers that emanate from the Main Library during our Second Saturday concerts, there is joy, adventure, and hope to be found in our special libraries, where people of all different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds can gather in peace and explore ideas together.

As we look ahead to a new year and delve into the planning of the year’s offerings, we want you to know that we hear you. We want to expand the rich dialogue we opened this past year and continue to let your voices be heard. Already, important initiatives developed in direct response to your feedback are in motion.

Let’s continue our communication – email hello@altadenalibrary.org with any questions, comments, and ideas! As always, visit www.altadenalibrary.org to stay updated on the Altadena Library District’s upcoming events, programs, and activities!