



Altadena
Libraries



Altadena Library District

Annual Report

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Let me begin this letter to you with my sincere gratitude for your support of the Altadena Library District. Our libraries are a reflection of you and this amazing community we call Altadena.

As I look back at the days, weeks and months that comprised July 2020 through June 2021, I'm both thrilled and astonished. Not even a global pandemic could stand in the way of our staff's commitment to serving the community of Altadena. In fact, we found new ways to serve as a valuable resource by working closely with the Altadena Town Council, Chamber of Commerce and other civic groups to help create necessary virtual communication tools and strategies. We also expanded partnerships with local businesses through the establishment of our Read Local, Shop Local program. Throughout the tumultuous turns of the past year, we have endeavored to do everything we could to help keep us all vital, while always focused on serving you, our steadfast patrons.

Following the passage of Measure Z, which you supported wholeheartedly, we began to work in earnest, preparing for the myriad issues that are critical to ensure responsible and transparent oversight and planning for the imminent library renovations and programming. We engaged a topnotch Capital Project Management Team, Rachlin Partners, and assembled a highly qualified Bond Issuance Team to help us generate the bond proceeds needed for these capital improvements. These teams have made amazing progress and ongoing efforts will prove invaluable.

We have enlisted Anderson Brule Architects, an architectural firm with years of experience working on both historical and library buildings, to create designs for the Bob Lucas branch and Main Library based upon informed ideas from the community. To ensure that we have a strong community voice as part of the design process, we have established a Community Focus Group comprised of local Altadenans, who meet regularly and talk to their neighbors and members of the many local organizations they represent.

All of this work is possible and successful because of you . . . a talented staff who is ever-present, the Friends and Foundation who advocate tirelessly for us, volunteers who help us help others, community businesses and organizations that partner with us and the thousands of Altadenans who proudly support our libraries and all we do.

Thank you for making the Altadena Library District a place where *all are learning, growing, and thriving together.*

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Nikki Winslow". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nikki Winslow
District Director

**ALTADENA LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

during FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

Terry Andruess

Jason Capell

Rushmore Cervantes

Katie Clark

Kameelah Waheed Wilkerson



We are...
CURIOUS.
CONNECTORS.
NEIGHBORS.

Highlights of the Year

*The Altadena Library District's strategic framework helps guide our operations, programs and services as we prioritize the community's needs and work toward an Altadena **where all are learning, growing and thriving together.** These highlights of just a handful of the District and its staff's tireless efforts during our 2020-2021 fiscal year.*

July 2020

The Altadena Libraries wrapped up its **Summer Reading program**, in which more than 600 Altadena readers participated.

The Altadena community was invited to share its reactions to national social injustice through **Altadena Voices**, an art collaboration/partnership with Altadena Library, Altadena Town Council, LA County Parks & Recreation, and Pasadena Unified School District. The outpouring of community voices – close to 100 entries were submitted – culminated in

a digital collection that can be viewed on the Altadena Library website.



August 2020

Partnering with Levi Brewster from One Earth Garden and Leigh Adams of the LA Arboretum, the District began work on the **Demonstration Garden at Bob Lucas Memorial Library.**

The Zine collection became available at the Main Library.

Library of Things (LoT)

The District launched its Library of Things (LoT) collection with laptops and mobile hotspots. These items can be checked out to patrons with Good Neighbor status.



September 2020

Altadena Library Foundation held its Taste of 'Dena virtually and **raised more than \$20,000 for a mobile library.**

The first season of the Open Book On Location video series, a partnership with Pasadena Literary Alliance, featuring conversations with world-famous authors from crime fiction writer Naomi Hirahara to fantasy novelist Patrick Rothfuss, concluded. All episodes can be found on the Altadena Library YouTube channel.

Digging for the bioswale was completed at Bob Lucas Memorial Library.

October 2020

Adult Services distributed civic engagement kits with the help of local community partner Rhythms of the Village.

Bob Lucas Library staff distributed family civic engagement kits to help parents and caregivers teach children about civic responsibilities, the U.S. government and elections.

The Community Room of the Main Library and the Bob Lucas Memorial Library opened for holds, browsing, and computer use.

Fifty-seven volunteers attended workshops and learned about regenerative practices while helping plant the Bob Lucas Library Demonstration Garden.



Volunteers & library staff work on the Bob Lucas Memorial Library Demonstration Garden.



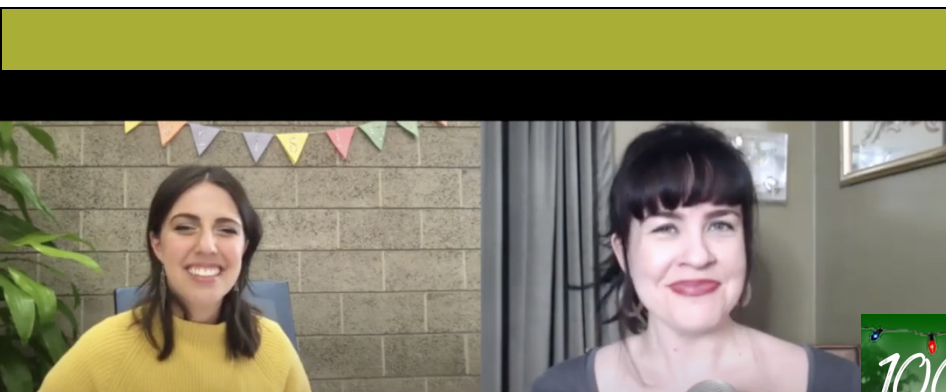
Teen Librarian Isabelle Briggs virtually interviewed author and mortician Caitlin Doughty, focusing on her career path and asking advice for youth interested in mortuary science or other uncommon careers. The video has received more than 18,000 views.

The library also posted on its YouTube channel, "Outdoor Cannabis Cultivation for Beginners," which has garnered more views than any other library video to date.

December 2020

Teen Services, in partnership with Pasadena Unified School District, established the Homework Helper program.

Altadena Library, Altadena Historical Society and Christmas Tree Lane Association partnered to produce a series of videos to celebrate **100 Years of Lights**, the story of Christmas Tree Lane.



THE STORY OF ALTADENA'S CHRISTMAS TREE LANE

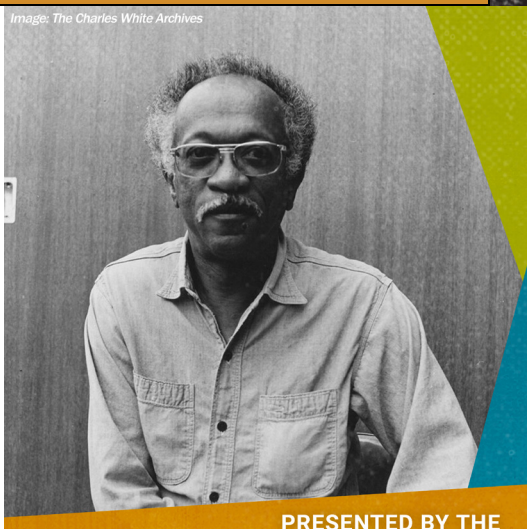
Youth and Family Services created a series of Storytime Snippet videos for YouTube.

January 2021

The Library of Things continued to grow as hiking backpacks were added to the collection.

November 2020

Altadena Library hosted the first episode of the **This is Altadena** podcast, which included conversations with community leader and Altadena Town Council member Veronica Jones, local artist Keni Arts, and Altadena Arts advocate Eugene Hutchins about the famous artist Charles White, for which a park in Altadena is named.



PRESENTED BY THE

Passage of Measure Z

In August 2020, the Board of Trustees adopted resolutions establishing the Altadena Library District Community Facility District and calling a special election to submit the levy of special taxes and incurring bonded indebtedness to finance the capital improvements to qualified voters residing within the District.

In November 2020, the registered voters of the District, by more than a two-thirds vote (72.35%), authorized the District to incur bonded indebtedness in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$24,000,000 to be secured by the levy of special taxes on taxable property within the District.

Thanks to the incredible support of local residents, organizations, and businesses through the passage of Measure Z, the Altadena Library District will be able to embark on an ambitious project to repair, modernize, and improve the Main and the Bob Lucas Memorial Library over the next several years.

January 2021 (contd)

Working with Arlington Garden, the District submitted a grant to fund the installation of a publicly accessible compost bin and programming at the Bob Lucas Memorial Library.

Bookdrops at both locations received an update with the



District's brand colors, and a van was purchased for mobile library services.

February 2021

The publicly accessible WiFi at both locations received an upgrade to provide patrons and staff with much faster internet speeds.

A StoryWalk® celebrating Black History Month debuted at the Main Library featuring "Thank You, Omu!" by Oge Mora.



Altadena Library District became the first library system in the United States to become Green Zone Certified through the American Green Zone Alliance.

March 2021

The National Wildlife Federation **certified the garden at Bob Lucas Memorial Library as a Certified Wildlife Habitat.**

California State Library accepted the District to participate in the Career Online High School Program in which adults can earn an accredited high school diploma.

Youth and Family Services established a partnership with Jackson Elementary School PTA members to create a Read-A-Thon challenge for their students.



The District launched the Read Local, Shop Local community building initiative with local businesses, which offers library patrons the opportunity to access special benefits by showing their library card at participating businesses.

April 2021

In honor of National Library Week, both libraries hosted a Neighbor-to-Neighbor scavenger hunt with clues hidden at local businesses and neighbors.

Partnering with Trustee Kameelah Wilkerson and teen members of the Masjid Al-Taqwa, the District shared



a series of virtual storytimes, crafts, and tutorial programs promoting patron fun and learning about the month of Ramadan.

Youth and Family Services had a grant proposal funded by the California State Library for Virtual Youth Programming. The funds allowed the District to purchase programming kits of iPads and Apple pencils for families, teens and tweens to use in the library and at home, if needed.

California Humanities awarded Teen Services grant funding to create a program called "Shared Landscapes: Mapping Teen Altadena," a multimedia documentary project that asks local teens to map sentiment to place and answer the question: "What does it feel like to be a teen navigating the geography of the San Gabriel Valley and beyond?"



May 2021

Youth and Family Services and Adult Services led a **Free Comic Book Day**, providing more than 75 patrons with free comic books and Baby Yoda craft kits.

June 2021

The District hosted three Inspire Harmony community events. More than 200 community gathered to enjoy dinner and music, and share their aspirations for the community, current challenges and their vision of Altadena Libraries.

Youth and Family Services prepared English and Spanish language Read with Me kits. Available for check out, the kits contain 5 to 8 librarian selected picture books, featuring diverse authors, illustrators, and characters.

The District kicked off its summer reading challenge and launched the Curiosity Connection, its new mobile library, rolling out to pop-up events at community programs and parks.

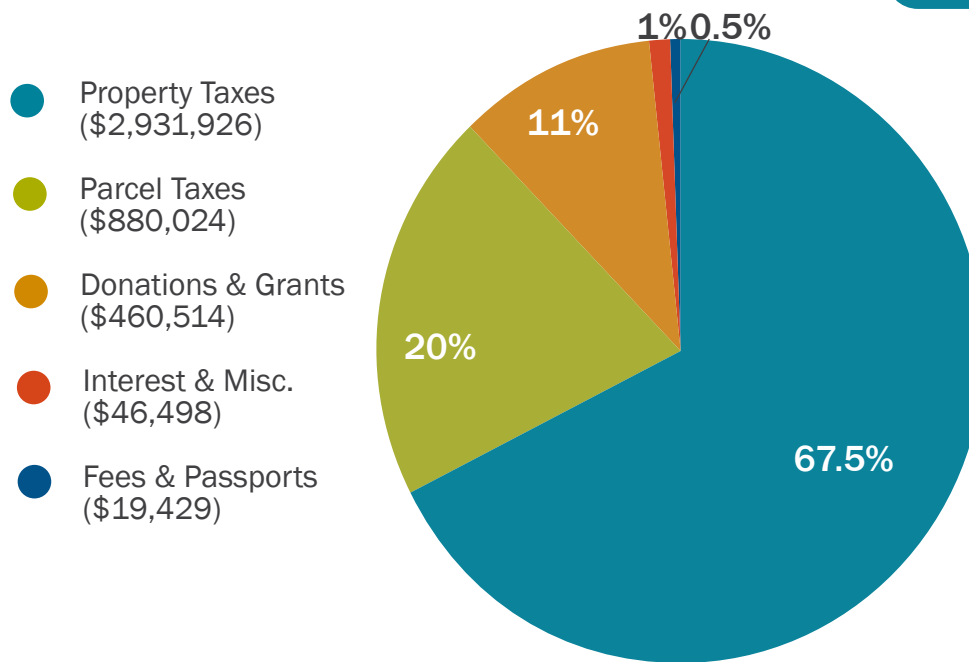


Finances

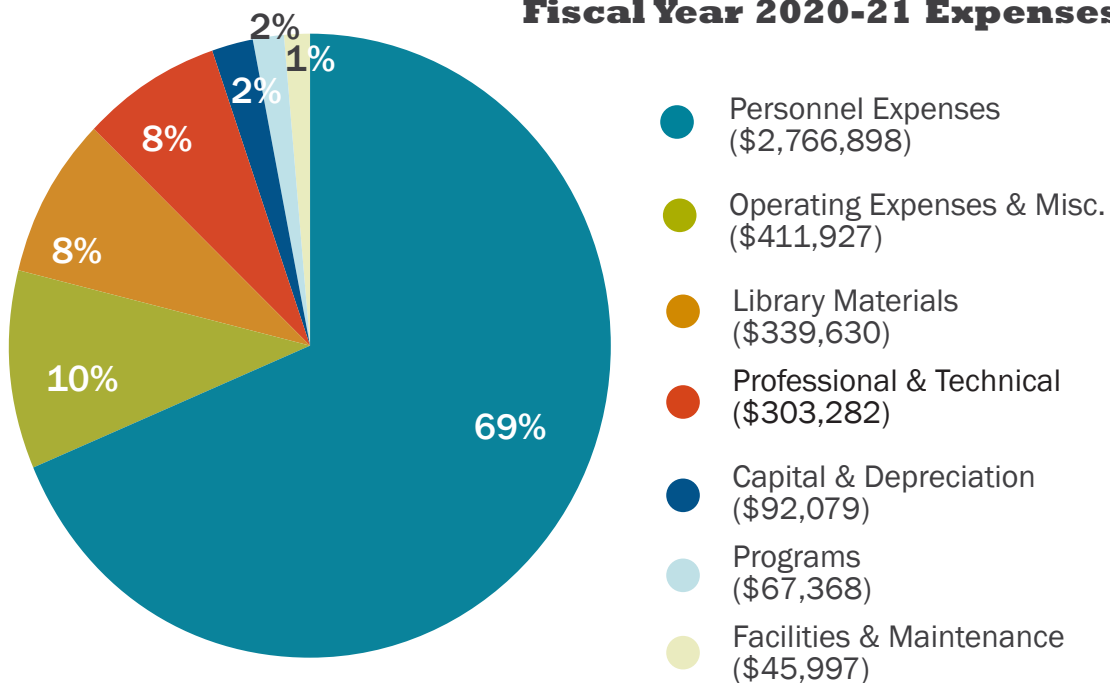
Financial Highlights

Total revenues from all sources **increased by 10.81%**, while total expenses for the District's operations increased by 3.54%. The District's **net position increased 27.67%**.

Fiscal Year 2020-21 Revenue



Fiscal Year 2020-21 Expenses



By the Numbers

CIRCULATION

128,818

Circulation statistics measure the amount of checkouts (books, movies, music, etc.) throughout the year.

HOLDS PLACED ON ITEMS

15,086

VISITORS TO LIBRARIES

9,271

NEW LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED

1,034

TOTAL EVENTS/PROGRAMS

211

ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS/PROGRAMS

2,026

REFERENCE QUESTIONS ANSWERED

1,523



160,114

Virtual Visits to
Library Website

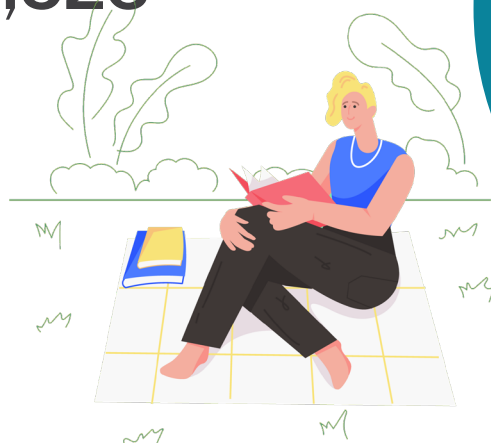
5,069

Monthly
Average Digital
Circulation

100,000+ YOUTUBE
VIDEO VIEWS

17,196 HOURS OF WATCH TIME

185 YOUTUBE VIDEOS PUBLISHED
OF ACTIVITIES, LITERARY READINGS
AND MORE!



Friends of the Altadena Library

Established in 1959, the Friends of the Altadena Library is an organization committed to the support of the Altadena Libraries. The organization stimulates public interest in the District, assists with funding to purchase materials, and supports cultural and educational programs. We thank the many Friends from July 2020 to June 2021 for their generosity, enthusiasm, and passion for our libraries!



Hafsah Abdus-Shakur	Susan Chorpennig &	Robert B. Gounley &	Kathy Kobayshi & Hal	Jane Murphy, MFT	Timothy Rutt
Christopher Acone	Ken Okuno	Paula J. Delfosse	Barron	Kathy Musial	Roberto Salgado
Jamie Albertson	Katie Clarke	Jackson Gourdikian	William & Kathy Korn	Steve & Louisa	Alvarez
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Sally Asmundson	Sallie Cruise	Cameell Hanna	Timothy Lennon	Null	R. Skinner
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Lois Bascom	Cunningham	Bob & Lisa Harrison	Lin Li	Bryant Ortiz	Marie & Robert
Priscilla & Richard	Tawny Curtis	Larrisa Hart	Elaine Lissy	Robert Oventile	Spencer
Benson	Gretchen Dalton	Lynn & Daryl	Richard Long	Rosa Palencia	Clark Stevens
Stephen Berkman	Dave Datz & Marla	Haselton	Michael Loria	Phyllis & Dorai Paris	Victoria Stratman
Jeanette Bernabe	Knutsen	Robert Hecksher	Elpidio Loveranes	Matthew Parker	Joy and Don Strayer
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Anne Chomyn	Dr. Bruce Goldberg	Alan Kita	Robert & Patricia	Nancy & George	
			Murar	Rothwell	

Learn more and get involved at www.altadenalibrary.org/friends

Altadena Library Foundation

The Altadena Library Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and enriching the facilities, services and resources of the Altadena Libraries. We offer our most sincere gratitude and appreciation to Fiscal Year 2020-2021 donors.

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Altadena Hardware
Altadena Real Estate
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Alma Apodaca
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Emily Balliet
Supervisor Kathryn Barger
Cushon Bell
Andrew Boada
Kathleen Bohland
Krista Bourdages
Carole Bradley
Tiffany Bradshaw
Bridget Brewster
Levi Brewster
Lorna Brosio
Neil Brown
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Bulgarini Gelato Vino Cucina
Claudie Kiti Bustamante
Reynolds Cafferata
Elisa Callow
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Lisa and Bruno Cavelier
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Leslie Denk and Dan
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Pizza of Venice
James Potter
Mikala Rahn
Rachel Rehwald-Merriam
Fox's Restaurant
Rhythms of the Village
Jessica Robinson
Natalya Romo
Rotary Club of Altadena
Gerry Rothschild
Elizabeth Seffel
Scott Siegal
Sarah Soifer

Southern California
Children's Museum
Wendy Storch
Martha Strain
Victoria Stratman
Sunrise Meadow Farm
Sweeter Than Honey
Edward Jones
Sandra Tully
Cheryl and Ron Turkal
Twin Cities Digital, Inc.
Unbound Dance Studio
Unincorporated Coffee
Urban Homestead
Institute

The Altadena Library Foundation's mission is to bring people, ideas, and resources together through fundraising and advocacy. To learn more about our efforts and to get involved, please visit www.altadenalibraryfoundation.org.

Julia Valencia
Rae Vavra
A. Vijayaraghavan
Lola Warlick-Bryant
Webster's Community
Pharmacy
Stephnie Weir
Briegh Winderbaum
Buena Vista Winery
Nikki and Jarrad Winslow
Melissa Wu
Michele Zack

We apologize for any errors or omissions in this acknowledgement of gifts. If you have a correction, please email us at manager@altadenalibraryfoundation.org.



Main Library

600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena, California 91001
Phone: (626) 798-0833

Hours

Monday & Tuesday: 10:00am – 8:00pm
Wednesday – Friday: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday: Closed



Bob Lucas Memorial Branch & Literacy Center

2659 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena, California 91001
Phone: (626) 798-8338

Hours

Monday – Friday: 10:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed

[**www.AltadenaLibrary.org**](http://www.AltadenaLibrary.org)



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