

CITY OF  
**Camarillo**  
P U B L I C   L I B R A R Y

# ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2021-2022



# STUDENT GO



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# Letter from the Library Director

The City of Camarillo Public Library staff resumed in-person programs during a year of challenges and silver linings. The dedicated Library staff supported community rebuilding by participating in events at local schools, parks and community centers. After a long pandemic, the Library team continues to look for new ways to overcome barriers and achieve goals through development of a Strategic Plan. To inform planning efforts, we surveyed our community in January 2022 and received nearly 1,000 responses. In addition, we listened to your feedback and ideas during in-person and online focus group discussions.

We eagerly welcomed the return of our popular Camarillo Reads: One City, One Book event with best-selling author Kate Quinn, who discussed her latest book, *The Rose Code*, to an enthusiastic audience of 89 participants last September. We offered younger readers their own Camarillo Reads with a children's companion book, *How I Became a Spy*, by Deborah Hopkinson. Residents are increasingly visiting the Library to attend storytimes in the Pirate Ship and participate in teen crafternoons and monthly cultural events.

The Russell Fischer Business Collection Coordinator hosted a variety of online events and workshops to support local business. In September, we offered a four-week Work Development Series culminating in a Community Job Fair. Eighteen Ventura County businesses participated, offering more than 150 job opportunities. Building on the success of our Job Fair, we presented a Spring Workforce Development Series throughout April to support the City of Camarillo Job Fair in Constitution Park.

The City of Camarillo Public Library acquired new online workforce development tools from the California State Library to support pandemic recovery. These digital platforms offer resources for test prep, career change, small business startup, digital skill building, soft skills, certifications and more. Digital materials continue to grow in popularity, and we invested in a variety of digital eBooks and eAudiobooks to provide access to stories and entertainment for our patrons. This year we introduced PressReader, which features over 7,000 magazine and newspaper titles from across the globe available to read online.

Library staff are actively engaged in the community, attending gatherings and promoting the Library. As a recipient of the



City of Camarillo Public Library Staff

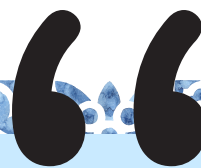
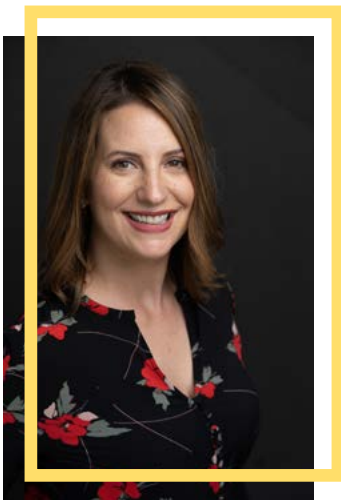


California State Library's Summer Lunch Pop-Up Library Grant, we provided over 500 tote bags filled with books to students from University Prep Charter School Elementary, Dos Caminos Elementary and Camarillo Boys & Girls Club during summer lunch events. Library staff connected with our community at Leisure Village, Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District, California State University Channel Islands, Camarillo Council on Aging and Senior Expo in addition to participating in local ribbon-cutting events.

The Friends of the Camarillo Library generously donated \$95,000 during fiscal year 2021-2022, helping fund materials, programs and services.

Thank you to everyone for your trust and support in an ever-changing environment. I am grateful to City leadership, Library staff and our community for your steadfast dedication. We look forward to expanding service hours to seven days a week alongside a busy calendar of events and innovative tools to support our community.

**Mandy Nasr | Library Director**



“The City prides itself on providing efficient and effective municipal services to our residents and businesses. We have a public library that exemplifies versatility. We have guided our residents and businesses through the COVID pandemic and continue to go to great lengths to support the community as we look toward a stable, strong, and sustainable future.”

– Charlotte Craven, Mayor (October 13, 2021)

# City of Camarillo Library Use At A Glance



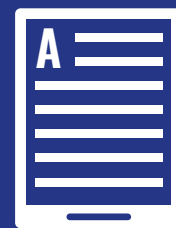
**390,166**

PHYSICAL ITEMS  
CIRCULATED



**4,673**

LIBRARY CARDS  
ISSUED



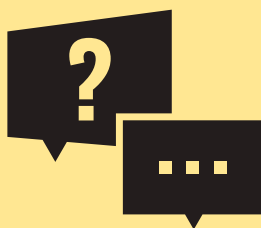
**101,048**

ELECTRONIC ITEMS  
CHECKED OUT



**161,519**

VISITS



**59,834**

REFERENCE QUESTIONS  
ASKED



**109,224**

WI-FI SESSIONS



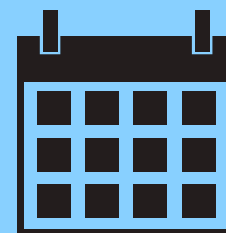
**123,448**

LIBRARY WEBSITE  
VISITS



**5,649**

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE



**381**

TOTAL PROGRAMS

FISCAL YEAR 2021 - 2022

[camarillolibrary.org](http://camarillolibrary.org)

# Children Services

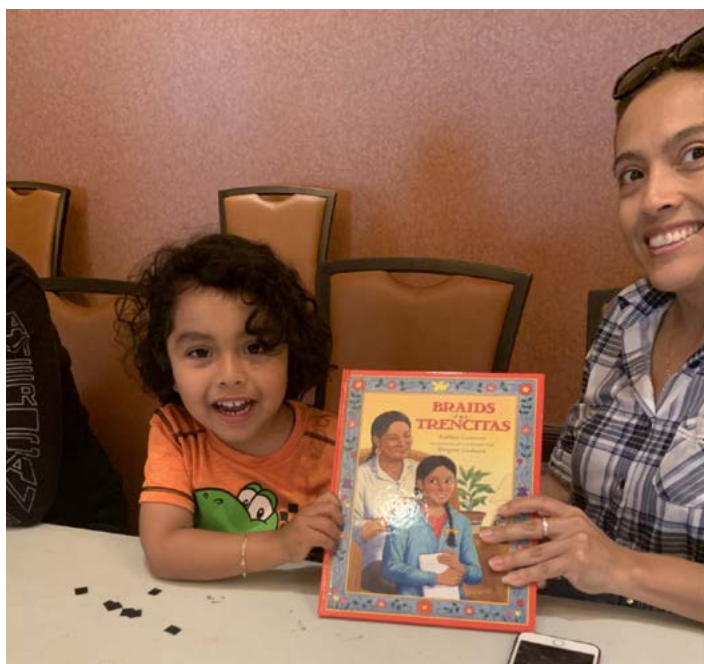


The Library supports student success through a number of initiatives and launched 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten to promote reading to newborns, infants and toddlers, encouraging caregivers and children to bond through reading. 49 people attended the kickoff and more than 160 log sheets have been distributed to caregivers.



As a recipient of the California State Library's Summer Lunch Pop-Up Library Grant, the Library provided over 500 tote bags filled with books to Dos Caminos Elementary, University Prep Charter and Camarillo Boys & Girls Club. The Pop-Up grant provided free books to help build home libraries as well as an opportunity for children to discover Library resources. The Fiscal Year started with a "Reading Colors Your World" summer reading program with 607 children registering.

During the winter months, the Library connected with Pleasant Valley Recreation & Park District to present storytime and crafts at the "Winter Wonderland of Wreaths" event. The Library maintains a close relationship with local schools and offers a monthly preschool storytime to students at Rancho Campana Head Start and an annual Open House tour for students and their families to ensure everyone starts the year with a Library card.



The Library champions reading throughout the year. In April, the Library received funding from the California State Library for a Día de los Niños celebration. 38 people joined local bilingual children's author and teacher René Colato Laínez to read stories, sing songs and play a game of Lotería. Each child received an autographed book, *Playing Lotería / El Juego*, from Laínez to take home. At a bilingual storytime held at Rancho Campana Head Start, staff distributed copies of Laínez's board book, *Opuestos*, to preschoolers.

Día de los Niños celebration - April 2022





Youth Services Staff "Read Beyond the Beaten Path"  
Summer Reading Kick-Off Event June 2022



Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone 20th Anniversary Celebration - January 2022

# Teen Services

The City of Camarillo Public Library empowers high school students with workshops on finances, managing stress, mindfulness and team building. Guided by the Teen Advisory Board (TAB), the Library hosts popular events for teens including a Book Convention with local authors attended by 85 people. A Teens & Money Financial Workshop was offered in partnership with CBS Federal Credit Union to teach important life skills like budgeting. Weekly after school programs help teens de-stress, with popular after school programs including crafternoons, Dungeons & Dragons, board games and book club. During finals week, the Library offers mindfulness and meditation workshops to support wellbeing and healthy habits.



Teen Crafternoons



Wizard of Oz Great Game - December 2021



# Adult Services



A highlight this year was the return of Camarillo Reads: One City, One Book featuring best-selling author Kate Quinn. Quinn discussed her latest book, *The Rose Code*, to an audience of 89 participants. Camarillo Vice Mayor Shawn Mulchay welcomed an enthusiastic crowd who received signed copies of the book. A companion Camarillo Reads event for children featured the book, *How I Became a Spy* by Deborah Hopkinson. Kids enjoyed a book discussion as well as a virtual game room and Grab & Go spy activities.

The Library is a popular destination for the local crafting community. Crafting events encourage new friendships and offer participants a chance to unwind with unique offerings such as origami, watercolor and a “bad art” craft contest. Quilting is the newest addition with a workshop series on how to start a quilt without a sewing machine.

Based on feedback from Strategic Plan focus groups and a community survey, the Library featured heritage month celebrations to unite community members and provide a space to learn about cultural history. Highlights include:

- Hispanic Heritage Month: Local author and educator Dr. Kathleen Contreras discussed her bilingual picture book *Braids/Trencitas*.
- Black History Month: For adults, a curator from the California African American Museum discussed the exhibit “Rights and Rituals: The Making of African American Debutante Culture.” Children and families enjoyed activities inspired by Amanda Gorman’s *Change Sings: A Children’s Anthem* that explored ways to create the change you want to see in the world.
- Women’s History Month: Adults were entertained by a performance of *In Her Own Words* honoring the famed aviatrix Amelia Earhart, while families enjoyed a storytime and flower pot craft in remembrance of local botanist and horticulturist Theodosia Burr Shepherd.
- Asian American Pacific Islander Month: Togen Daiko performed exhilarating drum music for an audience of 93 attendees.
- National Immigrant Heritage Month: The Library partnered with the Ventura County Genealogical Society for an “Intro to Genealogy” discussion and gathered family recipes from the local community for compilation into a Community Cookbook.





Camarillo Reads - September 2021  
Author Kate Quinn, Vice-Mayor Shawn Mulchay, Library Director Mandy Nasr

## Promoting an active and healthy lifestyle is a Camarillo priority.

From heart health workshops to weekly chair yoga during Mental Health Awareness Month, the Library helps residents build healthy habits. The Library also provides resources for financial wellbeing, collaborating with Ventura County's Financial Abuse Specialist Team to offer financial literacy guidance and tips on Senior Scam Prevention.





# Adult Literacy Center

The Adult Literacy Center works with adult learners to build and develop reading and writing skills in English. Learners are paired with volunteer tutors; together these one-on-one pairs meet regularly, create goals and work toward high school diploma equivalency tests, citizenship applications and vocational training. During Fiscal Year 2021-2022, 33 pairs of learners and tutors dedicated a total of 2,711 hours to improving adult literacy skills.

The Adult Literacy Center reopened for in-person learning in July 2021, welcoming back tutors and learners who met virtually during the pandemic. The Library celebrated the reopening by hosting a Meet & Greet for learners and tutors.

In February, the Adult Literacy Center received a grant from Fund her Future to provide 10 licenses for students to use EnGen, a learning platform to upskill and empower English Language Learners entering the job market.

The Library's Literacy Coordinator connects with new learners and tutors at the Philanthropic Educational Organization, CSUCI Be the Change: Civic Engagement Fair, Golden Future 50+: Senior Expo and other events. Two learners were accepted to the Adult Learner Leadership Institute where they will receive advocacy training and attend workshops on public speaking, communication and goal setting.

Learners continue to achieve life-changing success, including work promotions, reading their first book and passing civics exams. Each learner sets personal goals, from understanding sermons in places of worship to entering college, and the Library is grateful to the volunteer tutors that inspire learners.

**33**

PAIRS OF LEARNERS  
AND TUTORS

**2,711**

HOURS SPENT  
IMPROVING LITERACY



# Russell Fischer Business Collection (RFBC)



The Russell Fischer Business Collection (RFBC) offers an exemplary collection of resources and services. RFBC is dedicated to informing, educating and sharing knowledge to help businesses, entrepreneurs and professionals thrive.

The Library's Business Services Coordinator offered workshops on writing and updating resume and cover letters, organizing job search efforts and preparing for job interviews, which culminated in a Community Job Fair at the Library in October. 18 Ventura County businesses seeking candidates for more than 150 jobs connected with 78 attendees, including several teens. In response to business and resident requests, the RFBC Coordinator led a second workforce development seminar in April to support the City of Camarillo Job Fair in Constitution Park.

## RFBC HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Winning the Game of Fear: Tips on how to overcome workplace challenges such as public speaking and confrontation.
- How to Start and Grow Your YouTube Channel and Social Media: Grow your social media presence and online business.
- Honor Your Priorities, An Alternative to (Elusive) Work-Life Balance: Achieve the elusive idea of work-life balance by establishing personal and professional goals.
- Introduction to Bitcoins and Crypto currency: The differences between network versus cryptocurrency, what Bitcoins are and where to get them.
- How to Turn a Dollar into a Million: Co-hosted with the Better Investing Channel Islands Chapter, this workshop provided a framework for long-term wealth development.
- Recruiter Insights and Tips to Land the Job: Co-hosted with Grow with Google, participants received advice from top recruiters from Deloitte, Charter, Google and SAP on how to position yourself advantageously with a strong résumé and interview to land the job.
- Sell Online with E-commerce Tools: In time for the holidays, participants learned how to sell their products online using an E-commerce store built with Shopify.



**18**  
VENTURA COUNTY  
BUSINESSES

**150**  
JOBS CONNECTED

**78**  
ATTENDEES

Individual and group training sessions explored the RFBC's valuable digital research tools, from LinkedIn Learning to Mergent Intellect. Tools that support industry research, career assistance, and demographic and investment research were added to the collection. The Business Services Coordinator cultivated relationships with the West Ventura County Business Alliance, Women's Economic Ventures and SCORE Ventura County.



City of Camarillo Public Library Job Fair - October 2021

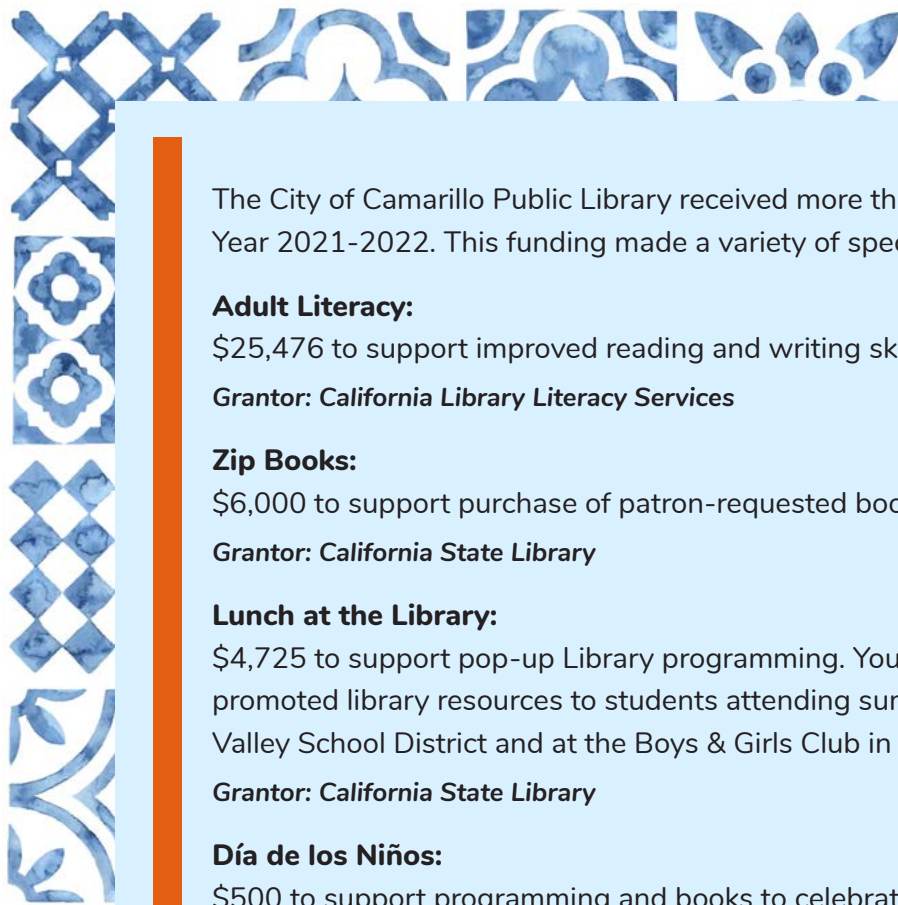
## Friends of the Camarillo Library



The Friends of the Camarillo Library generously donated \$95,000 in Fiscal Year 2021-2022, supporting books and materials purchases, programs and services. The Friends raise funds through the Friends Bookstore, Community Giving Programs and Friends Tours, which include local trips to theater performances, museums, wineries and garden visits. The Friends believe that when the Library thrives, the community thrives and are always looking for new members. If you are interested, please email [membership@friendshipcamarillolibrary.org](mailto:membership@friendshipcamarillolibrary.org). The commitment and service of countless Friends members is truly astonishing and deeply appreciated.



# Special Projects and Additional Funding



The City of Camarillo Public Library received more than \$166,000 in grants during Fiscal Year 2021-2022. This funding made a variety of special projects and purchases possible.

**Adult Literacy:**

\$25,476 to support improved reading and writing skills for adults.

*Grantor: California Library Literacy Services*

**Zip Books:**

\$6,000 to support purchase of patron-requested books.

*Grantor: California State Library*

**Lunch at the Library:**

\$4,725 to support pop-up Library programming. Youth Services staff distributed books and promoted library resources to students attending summer lunch programs in the Pleasant Valley School District and at the Boys & Girls Club in Camarillo.

*Grantor: California State Library*

**Día de los Niños:**

\$500 to support programming and books to celebrate reading with families.

*Grantor: California State Library in partnership with Southern California Library Cooperative (SCLC)*

**Camarillo's Great Outdoors:**

\$4,375 to support outdoor programming and exploration kits to take to local parks and beaches.

*Grantor: California State Library*

**Fund her Future:**

10 licenses for adult literacy students to use EnGen, a learning platform to upskill and empower English Language Learners entering the job market.

*Grantor: Write her Future Institute*

**Workforce Development Platforms:****Coursera, GetSetUp, LinkedIn Learning, Northstar & Skillshare**

Digital platforms designed to help Californians and their communities recover from the pandemic. These digital platforms offer resources for workforce development and recovery, test prep, career change, small business startup, digital skill building, soft skills, certifications and more.

Estimated value: \$125,000

*Grantor: California State Library*

**PressReader:**

Two-year subscription that allows patrons to read national and international newspapers (Los Angeles Times, USA Today, Daily Mail) and magazines (Forbes, Newsweek, Vogue) without a paywall.

**Grantor:** Southern California Library Cooperative (SCLC)

**Parks Pass:**

Circulating park passes allow the holder's vehicle and all occupants to enter any of California's 200+ State Parks free of charge.

**Grantor:** California State Library in partnership with California State Parks



In January 2022, Mandy Nasr, Irma Morales and Nicole Valdivia were interviewed for CityScene TV in a feature titled “[Welcome to Camarillo Public Library.](#)” Topics covered include the Russell Fischer Business Collection, youth programming and library resources.

In March 2022, Camarillo Public Library was one of six libraries selected to participate in a curated California Libraries Learn course. Six library staff members were trained on community engagement, building community connections, effective communication and program development.

In April 2022, Mandy Nasr was elected to serve a three year term on the governing body of the American Library Association as Councilor-at-Large. Mandy is honored to contribute to the Association's work and promote national awareness of the Camarillo Public Library.

In June 2022, Mandy Nasr, Joseph Mangold and Timothy Furgal were invited to present at the California Library Association (CLA) Annual Conference in Sacramento to lead a discussion on change management and community engagement with 40 library professionals in California.

In June 2022, Timothy Furgal was recognized in the 2022 class of Emerging Leaders at the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. The Emerging Leaders program enables library staff to participate in project planning work groups in a leadership capacity.