



City of  
**Mountain  
View**  
Library



# — YEAR IN REVIEW —

## FISCAL YEAR 2024-25



# ABOUT MOUNTAIN VIEW PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Message from Director Tracy Gray

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As your Library Director, it's my privilege to connect with each of you as we reflect on the previous year and chart the year ahead.

In today's fast-moving world, our role extends beyond books to empowering you with curated guidance, digital tools, and welcoming spaces and programs. This past year we provided new resources and services such as a new catalog, online newspaper service, stargazing kits, and new teen programs. We continued to enhance our storytimes in the neighborhood parks, a stipend program to complete high school, new digitized items and displays in the History Center, and many more free services and programs.

Looking ahead, we're excited to bring you another exciting lineup of events—from our much-loved storytimes and educational programs to our creative workshops and online author series. Whether you're browsing physical shelves, attending in-person or online programs, utilizing the space, or accessing our digital collections from home, we hope you create, connect, and learn. Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you in the Library.

Warm regards,

Tracy Gray



## Mission

Our Library is for everyone.  
We are a free resource that helps  
our community connect, create,  
and learn.

## Library Use

Cardholders: **63,729**

Days open: **347**

Library visits: **205,180**

Questions answered: **15,644**



# INTRODUCING THE NEW CATALOG

The Library switched over to its new catalog, Vega Discover, on June 30. Vega Discover offers an updated look and a fresh, easy experience while searching for library materials. Once customers are logged in with their library card number and PIN, they will have access to their bookmarked materials and saved catalog searches in addition to their general account information.

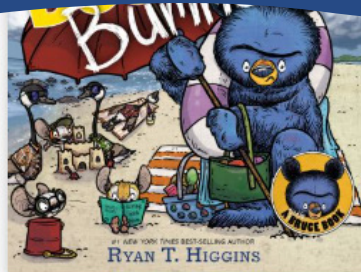
## With Vega Discover, customers can:

- Easily navigate through the catalog on a phone, tablet, or computer.
- Find titles in preferred formats within one search record, whether it's a book, eBook, audiobook, or more.
- Refine searches by availability, format, age group, and more.
- See suggestions for similar titles, authors, contributors, and topics.
- Read reviews from professional publications and people who have read, watched, or listened to the title.
- Maintain a virtual bookshelf with custom lists and saved searches.
- Enable reading history.
- Browse staff-curated lists and materials that were recently added to the collection.
- Update their email address, phone number, or preferred pickup location for holds.



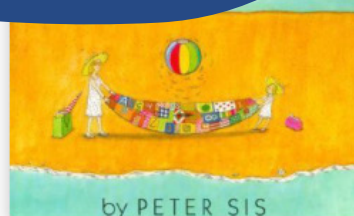
**On Gull Beach**

Yolen, Jane



**Beach bumper**

Higgins, Ryan T



**Beach ball**

Sís, Peter, 1949-



**Exploring the beach**

Collins, Savina



**Blood like mine**

Neville, Stuart



Log in



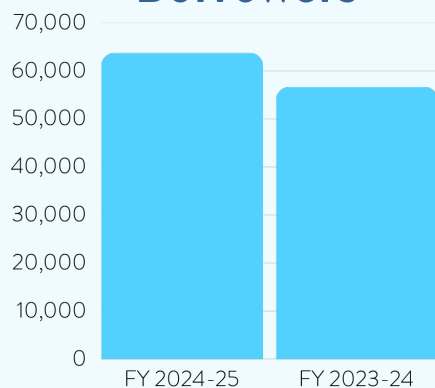


# OFFERING BOOKS, MEDIA, AND UNIQUE MATERIALS

Staff worked on growing a collection of borrowable items outside of books and media.

- Customers looking to charge their phone, tablet, or other device may borrow a portable charger from the second-floor information desk.
- The California State Library and Southern California Library Cooperative awarded two stargazing kits to the Library through a grant.
- Customers wishing to prioritize their health may borrow a FitBud simple step counter.
- Customers who are working or studying inside the Library may borrow a USB webcam with mini-tripod from the second-floor information desk for video conferencing, remote learning, virtual collaborating, live streaming, recording and more.

## Borrowers



## Circulation

	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
MAIN LIBRARY	1,006,018	1,024,100
BOOKMOBILE	15,124	9,483
OTHER*	12,698	11,047
ELECTRONIC	341,293	328,816
TOTAL	1,375,133	1,373,446

\*Ex: wi-fi hotspots, sewing machines, cake pans, tools, telescopes, board games, video games, etc.



"I love that this library has so many options because you can always find something you like, even if it isn't a book." –Library Customer



# ENSURING 24/7 ACCESS

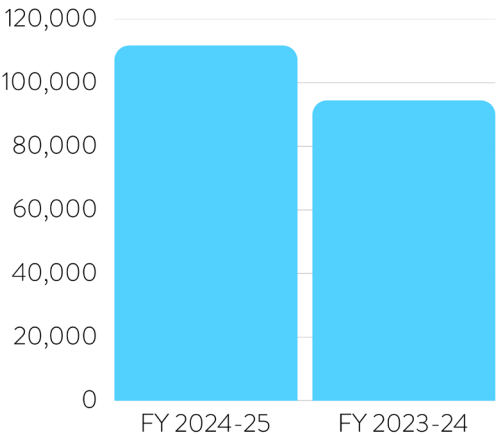


## PressReader

The Library acquired PressReader in February 2025. Through this robust online platform, library cardholders can access over 7,000 digitized national and international newspapers and magazines in over 60 languages representing over 120 countries. Articles can be translated into 18 additional languages such as Hindi, Korean, Pashto, Persian, Russian, Slovak, Tamil, Urdu and Vietnamese.

With 51.2% of Mountain View’s population speaking a language other than English at home, the inclusion of PressReader as one of the Library’s free online resources supports the City Council’s initiative for a Community for All by making worldwide publications easily accessible for every resident, regardless of language or country of origin.

## Digital Library Usage



## Top Five Webpages

- My Library Account: **67,387 views**
- New York Times Online: **49,058 views**
- Get a Library Card: **24,976 views**
- Digital Library: **22,344 views**
- Reserve a Group Study Room: **19,621 views**

## Top Five Most Frequently Visited Digital Library Resources

- Ebsco: **28,295 full text**
- New York Times Games: **23,788 redemptions**
- California Revealed: **13,673 views**
- Flipster: **9,259 full text**
- New York Times Online: **7,975 redemptions**

## eMaterials Circulation

	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
HOOPLA	64,300	54,495
OVERDRIVE	250,958	250,823
KANOPY	26,035	23,262

## eMaterials Usage

	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
HOOPLA	185,345	149,128
OVERDRIVE	69,289	62,316
KANOPY	755	545

## New York Times

	FY 2024-25	FY 2023-24
ONLINE (NEWS)	7,975	7,104
COOKING	5,416	3,756
GAMES	23,788	14,790



# MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE



The Library participated in the City's inaugural Together in Pride event in June 2025. Staff interacted with 297 visitors and issued 19 library cards. Both children and adults enjoyed the coloring activity at the table and looked through LGBTQIA+ booklists.



Staff issued nine new library cards and interacted with 604 visitors at the Lunar New Year Celebration event at the Community Center.

The Library participated in 14 outreach events last year. Staff reported speaking with a large number of Spanish speakers. We introduced new types of free swag this year, including solar power banks, cutting boards, planters, color pencils, and fidget toys.



The principal of Castro Elementary School invited the Library to Back to School Night. The goal was to issue new library cards to families and children so they can immediately access all the Library's free services, such as books and media, study rooms, and Digital Library resources such as virtual homework help.

Teachers provided parents with paper library card applications during their classroom presentations. Parents then visited the library staff on campus to receive their library cards on the spot. Staff interacted with over 300 parents and issued over 100 library cards.







# ADVOCATING FOR YOUTH

## AVID PEAK Program

Youth librarians participated in MVLA's AVID PEAK program last year. Advancement Via Individual Determination is a nationally recognized program that focuses on developing the academic and leadership skills high school students need for four-year colleges and universities as well as future careers. AVID primarily welcomes historically underrepresented and underserved first-generation college-bound students. Students receive career pathway exposure through the Pathways, Exposure, Academic connections and Knowledge program.

For several years, the Library has supported AVID PEAK by attending the program's Annual Mock Career Fair and facilitating mock interviews. By participating in these activities, staff help students develop their elevator pitches and resumes while sharing constructive feedback and insights into library careers. Staff also provide presentations about the Student Connect Card and discuss how free Library services can support students throughout their studies and careers.

## Spreading the Word

Librarian Maynard Martinez presented on Library services for youth at the Mountain View Whisman School District's District English Language Advisory Council meeting in the spring of 2025. DELAC's purpose is to advise the district governing board on programs and services available for their students in order to achieve academic success. DELAC meetings are held eight times per year.

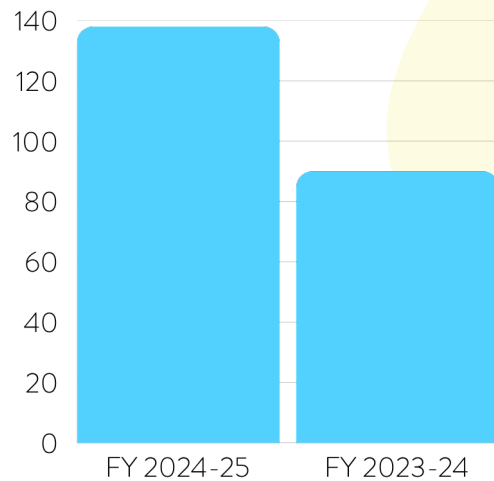
Assistant Library Director Melvyn Yabut and Library Assistant Julie Acosta-Boyer spoke at Graham Middle School as part of the school's Career Day panel. The day showcased a diverse variety of fields with panelists drawn from Leadership Mountain View graduates, partners and connections. Presenters shared their career paths, how they trained, what they like about their field and more.

"My family attended the holiday dance party today and that was the best toddler program we've been to at any library! Well done. Thank you so much!" –Library Customer



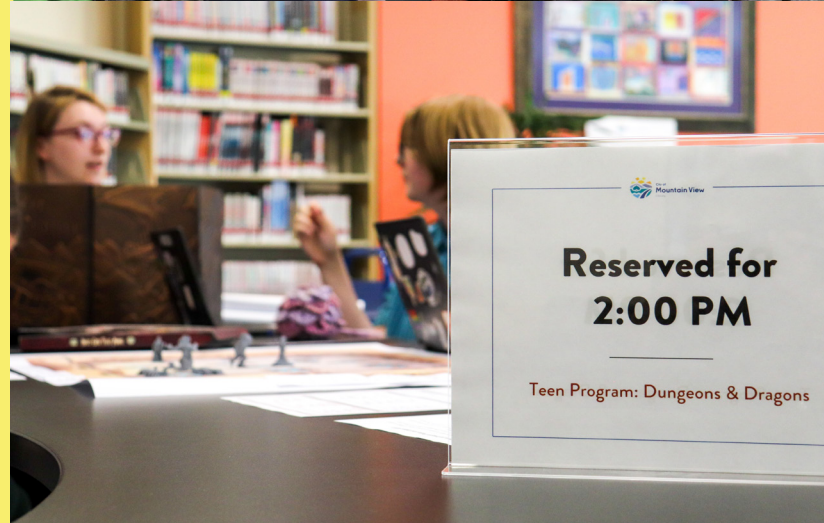
# CONNECTING WITH TEENS

## Teen Attendance at Programs



The Library launched three initiatives aimed at teens in the spring of 2025. These programs, along with the Library's regular teen programming, seek to provide young people with meaningful ways to contribute to their community, develop new skills, and share their perspectives. These initiatives are part of the Library's ongoing effort to be a dynamic community resource for young adults as they explore their interests and build connections.

- Participants in the Teen Summer Volunteer Program helped with STEAM Fridays throughout the summer.
- Teens have the opportunity to share their interests and passions by working with librarians to develop and deliver public library programs through the Amplify: Teen Voices program.
- Teens shared their feedback on what they want from the Library, what keeps them engaged, and how the Library can help them at the Library Vibe Check program in April 2025.



"I love the manga and how welcoming the library is!" –Teen Library Customer



# HELPING PEOPLE REACH THEIR GOALS

"I accomplished a lot of things using study desks and study rooms in the Library." –Library Customer

## Career Success Allowance Program

The Library received a letter and Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from Congressperson Anna G. Eshoo, Representative of California's 16th District, in response to the Career Success Allowance Program. Eshoo commended the program by saying, "I believe Program participants will develop the skills and confidence needed to pursue new career opportunities and achieve personal goals, and I'm proud that Mountain View cares so deeply about the success of its residents." Staff accepted the tenth and final CSAP stipend recipient in January 2025.

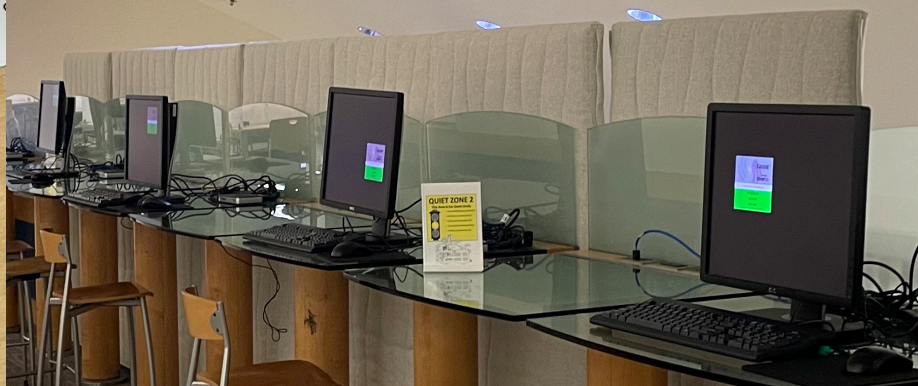
## Ensuring a Welcoming Space

We installed wireless charging pads at the study carrels on the second floor for customers who need to charge a MagSafe or Qi enabled device while inside the Library. Chargers are also available for borrowing at the second-floor information desk for use inside the Library.

Sound baffles were installed along the bridge computers on the second floor to mitigate noise traveling upward from the lobby. These additions aim to provide a more focused experience for customers using the computers

## Career Online High School

Staff invited Career Online High School graduates to share their experiences in the Career Online High School program through a video testimonial. The Career Online High School Program provides adults with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and career certificate over 18 months. This self-paced online program can help jumpstart careers and open new opportunities. Since the program's beginning in 2020, nine people have successfully graduated and continue to develop their potential.





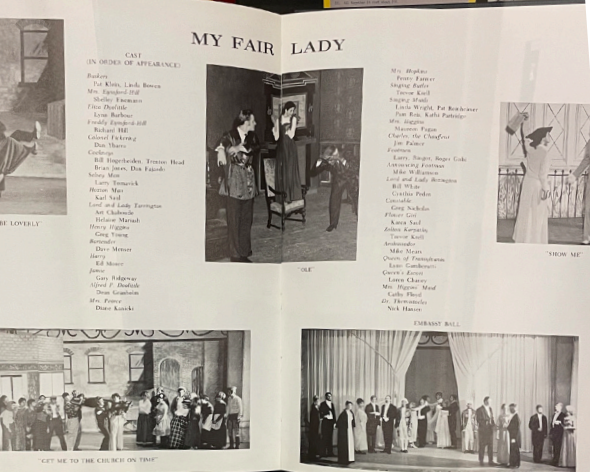
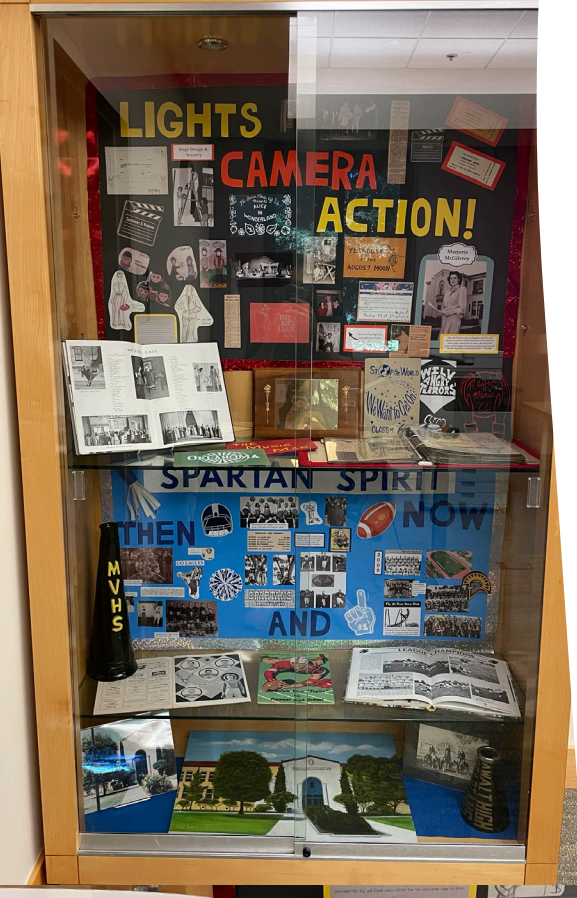
# HIGHLIGHTING LOCAL HISTORY

## History Center Digitization Project

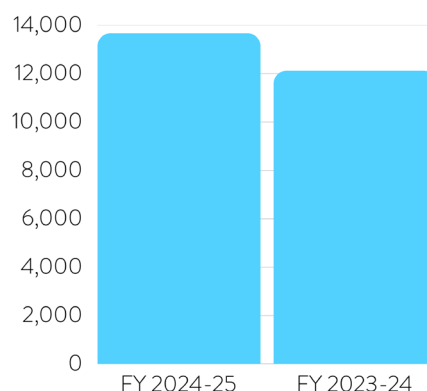
In July 2024, the Library applied for a competitive grant at California Revealed and nominated a number of items from the History Center collection for digitization, including Mountain View High School yearbooks from 1904-1929. California Revealed received a large number of grant applications, highlighting the demand for this valuable opportunity. In December 2024, staff were notified that the grant application was successful. The collection is available to access online through California Revealed and Internet Archive as of June 2025.

This collection of yearbooks chronicles Mountain View High School's first 25 years from its founding along El Camino Real and its first graduating class in 1904 to the opening of its building on Castro Street, which the school occupied until 1982. The yearbooks contain the names and photographs of faculty and students, as well as information about student activities, advertisements from local businesses, written reflections, short fiction, and inside jokes. Viewers will find details about the experience of World War I, the influenza epidemic of 1918-1919, and the Prune & Apricot Exposition. While moving through the collection from the oldest to the most recent issue, viewers can perceive the growing importance of secondary education and the emergence of youth culture facilitated by the automobile.

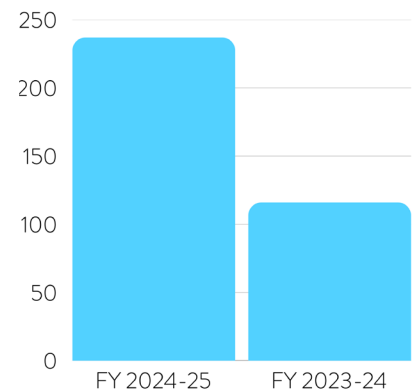
The yearbook collection is one of the most popular features of the History Center. Digitization of these especially old and fragile volumes will allow staff to preserve them from damage through handling.



## California Revealed Views



## Digital Reel Sessions (Historical Newspapers)





# CONNECTING, CREATING, LEARNING

## National Volunteer Week Proclamation

A proclamation for National Volunteer Week was held at the City Council meeting in Spring 2025. Sewing with FabMo volunteer Gayatri Ratnam accepted the proclamation on behalf of the citywide volunteer program. The Library is grateful to Ratnam's three years of service and her constant dedication to the Sewing with FabMo program, and for fostering creativity and community for those who wish to explore their sewing skills and build meaningful connections with fellow residents.

## Read and Repeat Storytime Series

Youth librarians launched a Read and Repeat storytime series on April 7. Each session in the five-week series focused on rereading the same book with activities that explore key concepts in science, language arts, math, social studies, and art. By revisiting the story in multiple ways, the program aimed to strengthen comprehension, foster critical thinking, and nurture a love of learning in small group settings.



"I just wanted to say that I really love how much time you have spent on the library to make it come true. I also really like the summer reading program because then readers in Mountain View want to read more and more which improves their reading. What I think is cool is that you finally get a book after all the reading you have done for 30 days which, to me, feels like I did something that makes me proud." –Young Library Customer



# SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

## Bilingual Storytimes

Senior Librarian Renee Ting from the Library's Youth, Bookmobile and Collections division contributed the article *Two Languages, One Storytime: A Guide to Bilingual Storytimes* to the Association for Library Service to Children blog. The article provides insight into the process of presenting a bilingual storytime from identifying community needs to implementing the program. Ting also offers advice to storytime providers by alleviating concerns regarding language barriers and encouraging intentionality in program design. Ting currently provides Mandarin-English bilingual storytimes at the Library, offering a welcoming, safe and inclusive space for participating families.

## MVLA Adult School Tour

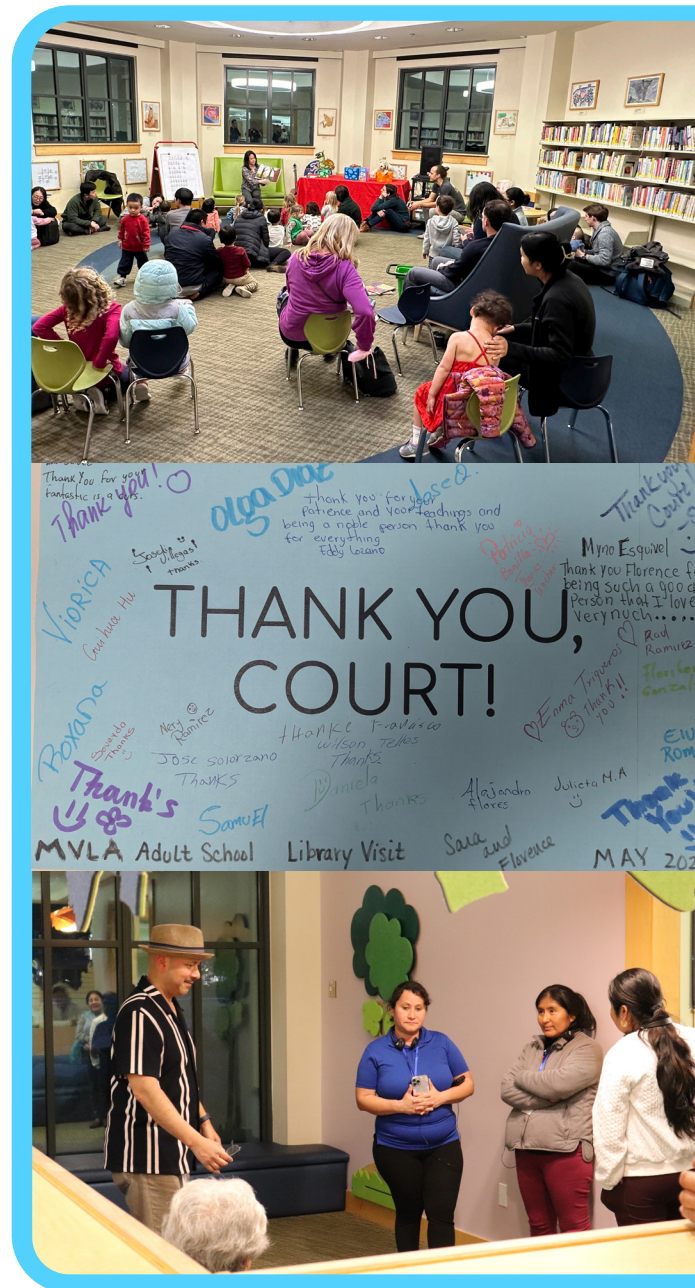
On May 28, the Library provided a tour to two classes of English learners from the Mountain View Los Altos Adult School. The eager students explored the bilingual titles in the Children's Room and the ESL resources on the second floor. They also learned about the Library's free online language learning resources. A total of 25 students signed up for library cards after the tour.

The students completed their course in June. Shortly after, one of the teachers from MVLA Adult School delivered this card signed by the students thanking librarian Court Fields for the tour of the Library.

## Spanish Language Civic Leadership Academy

The Library welcomed 20 participants from this year's Spanish Language Civic Leadership Academy on April 23. Staff gave a presentation that included a live demonstration on how to access Digital Library resources such as PressReader and Hoopla, a raffle to win Amazon and Apple tablets, and a tour of the Library.

We received a \$11,996 grant from the Pacific Library Partnership to purchase assisted listening devices to incorporate into the Library's upgraded AV system in the First Floor Program Room.

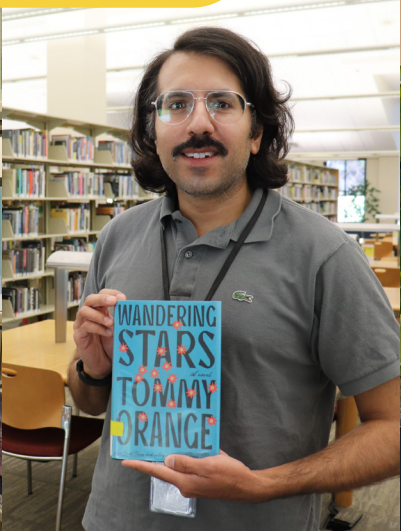




# THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!



The Library welcomed three summer interns in June 2025. The interns worked with staff on developing ideas for maker and DIY programs, creating promotional materials for programs and services, and conducting inventory of the Library's special collections.



"I would like to say that your library staff customer service is stellar. I love the Mountain View Library!!!" –Library Customer

