



## **Mendocino County Library Advisory Board**

### **Annual Report to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors**

The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board was established in 1970. The LAB acts in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors to make recommendations to the County Librarian and the Board of Supervisors regarding issues of County Library operations, policy, services and programs, review of the budget programs and recommendations, consideration of proposals or requests submitted by citizens or groups pertaining to the County Library operations and matters affecting public library services in Mendocino County. The LAB is comprised of nine voting members, one from each district and one from each city. Current board members are: District 1, Roseanne Wetzel (Secretary); District 2, Michele Bisson Savoy (Chair); District 3, Lew Chichester; District 4, Carole Poma; District 5, Michael Schaeffer; City of Fort Bragg, Linda Stumpf; City of Point Arena, Larry Riddle; City of Willits, Olga O'Neill (Vice Chair), City of Ukiah, Susan Sher; County Librarian, Mellisa Hannum (non-voting).

The board meets six times a year rotating between individual library sites. Dates, time and meeting locations are posted on the County Library website. Mendocino County Board Supervisors are encouraged to attend the meeting in their districts.

The Mendocino County Library Advisory Board's goal is to support the library system and ensure that its revenue is used wisely. The board is made up of volunteers who meet bi-monthly to advise the library director and hear feedback from the community.

## Mendocino County Libraries

The mission of the Mendocino County Library is to enrich lives through free and equitable access to materials and programs centered on education, culture, and entertainment.

Coast Community (Pt. Arena), 225 Main St., Point Arena, CA 95468 (707) 882-3114

Ft. Bragg, 499 Laurel St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437 (707) 964-2020

Laytonville, 44960 N. HWY 101, Suite D., Laytonville, CA 95454 (707) 234-6390

Round Valley, 23925 Howard St., Covelo, CA 95428 (707) 983-6736

Ukiah, 105 N. Main St., Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 463-4490

Willits, 390 E. Commercial St., Willits, CA 95490 (707) 459-5908

Bookmobile (offices are in the Ukiah Branch) (707) 234-2874



The Bookmobile has stops in Navarro\*, Comptche, Philo\*, Boonville\*, Manchester, Stewarts Point\*, Sea Ranch\*, Gualala\*, Hopland\*, Golden Rule\*, Redwood Valley\*, Potter Valley\*, Laytonville, Leggett, Piercy\*, Three Rivers School, Caspar\*, Mendocino\*, Westport\*, Albion\*, Elk

\*Denotes Wi-Fi service is available through the Bookmobile at that location.

## **The next three items are documented services and programs provided by the libraries.**

### **1. All Mendocino County Libraries receive and provide these services:**

- Books, Ebooks, Audiobooks, Music, Movies, Zip Books, Interlibrary Loan Books
- Streaming Video, educational databases, digital books and materials, technology trainings online: Adult Learning Center, Alexander Street, Archives Unbound, Author Talks & Virtual Author Talks, Beanstack, Britannica Escolar, Britannica School, CollegeNow, Consumer Reports, DigitalLearn, Discover & Go, Ebsco Research, Enki Biblioboard, Explora, Game Environmental Studies, Gale Science, Grantfinder, HelpNow, Hoopla, Kanopy, Kovels, Legal Information Source, Libby/Overdrive, National Geographic for Kids, New York Times, Newsbank, NextReads, Novelist K-8 Plus, NovelistPlus, Palace Project, PebbleGo Science & Capstone Interactive eBooks, Points of View Reference Source, Press Democrat, ProCitizen, Pronunciator, ProQuest, San Francisco Chronicle, Search Catalog, Small Business Source, Sora for Schools, Teacher Reference Center, TeachingBooks
- Educator Library Cards, Class Visits to the Library
- Library Outreach, Library by Mail: books, DVDs, CDs, etc.
- Computers, Internet, Hotspots, Chromebooks
- Summer Reading Challenges, Programs, and Prizes
- Discover & Go Museum Passes, California State Library Parks Passes, Backpack Hiking Kits, Cooking Kits, Senior Memory Kits, Solar Panel Charger Kits, DIY Toolkits, iFixit Repair Kits, Literacy Kits
- Seed Libraries & Seed Library Programming
- Specialty Classes/Presentations/Programs and Partnership Programs: All Branches
- Programs and Events for all Ages

### **2. These are Branch Specific Services:**

- Physical Newspapers and Magazines: Ukiah, Coast, Willits, Round Valley, and Fort Bragg
- Community Rooms: Round Valley, Willits, Fort Bragg, Ukiah, and Coast
- Study Privacy Booths: Ukiah, Willits, and Coast
- Specialty Book Collections: Grateful Dead Collection (Ukiah), Cannabis Collection (Ukiah), Book Club Collections (Ukiah), D&D Collection (Ukiah), Mushroom Collection (Willits), Legal and Business Self-Help (Willits), First American Collection (Round Valley), Local History Room for Mendocino North Coast (Fort Bragg)
- Board Games: Round Valley, Ukiah, Fort Bragg, and Willits

- In-Library Passive Programming: Ukiah and Fort Bragg
- Video Games: Ukiah and Fort Bragg
- Art Displays & Exhibits: Ukiah, Round Valley, and Fort Bragg
- Awe Learning Computers: Ukiah and Willits
- 3-D Printers & Print Designs: Ukiah
- Honor Lending Library: Outreach
- Self-Check Machines: Ukiah, Coast, Willits, Round Valley, and Fort Bragg
- Ukuleles: Ukiah
- Lunch at the Library: Fort Bragg (pop-up), Coast (in-branch), Ukiah (pop-up), Willits (pop-up, in-branch 2025), Round Valley (pop-up), and Outreach
- Annual Cold Weather Clothing Donation Table: Ukiah, Willits
- Formal Wear clothes for high school students: Coast
- FOL Bookstore: Ukiah, Coast, Willits, Round Valley (Noyo Book Store in Harbor) Fort Bragg

### **3. These are Ongoing Branch Programs:**

- Adult Book Clubs: Wines and Spines, Amble & Ramble, Lines & Spines (Ukiah), Books-n-Brews (Coast), and Adult Book Club (Fort Bragg)
- Spanish-language Book Club - La Lechuza: Fort Bragg
- Tech Help: Ukiah, Coast, Round Valley, Willits, Outreach (Including outreach to the Sun House Senior Apartments)
- Teen Hangout: Coast
- Teen Library Council: Ukiah and Coast
- Teen Lock-Ins: Ukiah, Coast, and Fort Bragg
- Teen D&D: Fort Bragg and Coast
- Teen Gaming: Ukiah
- Coding Club: Ukiah
- 3D Design Workshops: Ukiah
- Anime Asylum: Ukiah
- Read with a Ranger Partnership with the California State Parks: (twice a year) Ukiah, Fort Bragg
- Fire Preparedness Classes and Presentations/Partnerships with Mendocino County Firesafe Council: Round Valley, Ukiah, Coast, Fort Bragg

- Partnership Programs/Presentations with The Dharma Realm Buddhist University: Ukiah
- Children's Farmer's Market: Ukiah
- Reading at the Farmer's Market: Ukiah, Willits
- Open Mic & Poetry Events: Ukiah, Fort Bragg, Coast
- Senior Dance: Willits
- Ongoing music programs: Ukiah, Outreach, Coast
- Career Day: (annual) Ukiah
- Knit and Crochet and Quilting and Sewing Groups: Willits, Coast, Ukiah
- First Friday Artwalk Events: Ukiah
- Urban Homesteader Series: Ukiah
- Makerspaces: Ukiah
- Creation Station: Willits
- Storytimes for Families: Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Round Valley, Coast, Willits, Bookmobile, Outreach, Laytonville
- Craft Programs – children, teens, or adults: Fort Bragg, Coast, Ukiah, Willits, Round Valley, Outreach, Laytonville
- LEGO® Programming: Fort Bragg, Ukiah, Willits, Coast
- Therapy Dog Programs: Ukiah
- Build a Robot: Outreach
- Documentary Film Series/Movie Nights: Round Valley, Coast
- Senior Exploration Series: Round Valley
- Life-Long Learning Series: Coast
- Chair Yoga: Coast
- Point Arena Merchants Association Events (Hometown Holidays, Almost Fringe Festival, Independence Parade): Coast
- Paul Bunyan Labor Days Events (Kiddie Parade): Fort Bragg
- Social Services Navigation Day: Round Valley
- Penny University: Willits

## Friends of Coast Community Library (located in Point Arena)

P. O. Box 808, Point Arena, CA 95468

President Chas Higgins, contact email: [cwh@sonic.net](mailto:cwh@sonic.net), (707) 934-0483

The FOCCL group meets monthly at the library on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at 1:30.

The Friends of Coast Community Library (FOCCL) began the year with building maintenance challenges brought on by the severe winter weather. Keeping the Library building safe, warm and dry is always the highest priority. In January and March, FOCCL replaced two of the three furnaces that heat the Library. The third furnace required a new igniter. Meanwhile, FOCCL volunteers have been cleaning and reorganizing the Annex building, which serves as a storage and work area for both FOCCL and Library staff, in preparation for painting and refinishing the floors.

The book sales volunteers have held two “blowout” book sales this year, offering grocery sacks full of books at a nominal cost. These sales serve multiple purposes of clearing out book storage in the Annex while helping community members build their home book collections. The revenue generated is a welcome bonus.

FOCCL volunteers organized Lifelong Learning classes based on the Great Courses series of video classes taught by university faculty from around the world. Volunteers serve as facilitators, leading discussions of the video lectures. Classes offered in 2024 include "Propaganda and Persuasion", "America's Musical Heritage" "Major Transitions in Evolution", and "Ireland and Northern Ireland."



Mural in the Children's Room at the Coast Community Library



## Friends of the Fort Bragg Library

499 East Laurel Street

Fort Bragg, CA 95437

(707) 964-2020

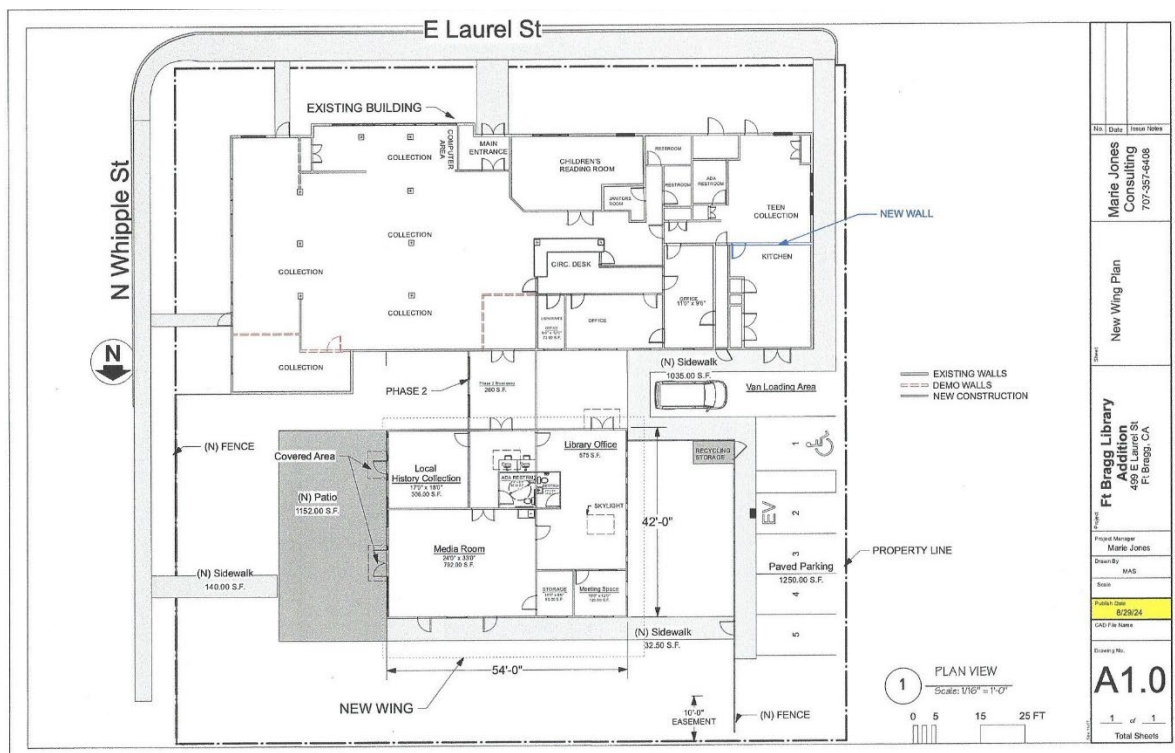
Email: [ffbnews@gmail.com](mailto:ffbnews@gmail.com)

The Friends of the Fort Bragg Library meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at 10:00 am.

The Fort Bragg FOL have continued to actively fundraise during the past year with a portion of the proceeds going towards supporting our local library programs and services while other designated amounts go to our FOL building projects. To date this year, our fundraising total is over \$25,000. We have had 2 very successful restaurant venue fundraisers, that included musicians in Fort Bragg and one in Westport. Our \$1,000 Club currently has a total of 97 participants. Two generous bequests have also been graciously received. Earlier this year we hired a local Certified Public Accountant and a professional bookkeeper to provide oversight regarding our financial affairs.

One major highlight of the past year has been our planning consultant, Marie Jones, completing the plans for a new 3,400 square feet building on the FOL property at 421 North Whipple Street, adjacent to the Fort Bragg Library. The permitting process for Phase 1 of this building is scheduled to begin in late 2024 with a shovel-ready phase to be by the summer of 2025.

The Fort Bragg FOL has to date donated \$12,000 to the Fort Bragg Library for library services and a wide variety of library programs.



Proposed drawing of new building.

**Friends of the Laytonville Library**

Old High School Book Shop

200 Branscomb Rd., Laytonville, CA

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 12:00 to 4:00 pm, Wed. 2:00 – 6:00 pm

Winter Hours Pending

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1382, Laytonville, CA 95454

(707) 984-8089 (Healthy Start Office)

Website: <https://www.laytonville.org/friends-of-the-laytonville-library/>

The Friends of the Laytonville Library meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 12:00 noon in the Community Room at the Book Shop.

Following the shared success in gaining a Laytonville branch of the Mendocino County Library, 2024 was a transition year for the FOLL community. The original founders of the FOLL were honored in March 2024 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner event at Harwood Hall, with a silent auction that raised \$1,890. A new, growing team of volunteers has stepped up to continue the legacy of the original members (special thanks to now retired Shawn Haven and Susan Bradley).

The mission of the Friends of the Laytonville Library is to facilitate the joyful experience of reading and learning. The Friends groups is dedicated to raising funds to support this goal by covering Long Valley Public Library needs not provided by the Mendocino County Library System. The new volunteer team is consulting with Healthy Start Coordinator Jayma Spence to consider all opportunities. In the short term, the Friends have held a successful blow-out book sale, and participated in many Laytonville events, including Cahto Tribe Earth Day, October Street Fair, and Harwood Hall Game Day.

At the October 11 meeting, the Friends met Denise Jessie, Branch Librarian of Willits and Laytonville, in a production discussion on library needs and best ways for ongoing collaboration and support, including publicizing Library events and ideas for co-sponsored space use of the Community Room (for ex: our hosing the recent County-wide Library Robot building workshop). The new Friends volunteers have worked hard on renewing the look and organization of the Book Shop. And are proud to support the community through Book Sales, the Seed Library, internet access, computer use and printing. The Friends have also hosted children's art and story time and other special events over 2024. Many new groups are using the Community Room, including Tapestry Counseling services, the Book Club, the Fiber Arts and Ham Radio Clubs. The FOLL are proud of their role in supporting the Laytonville community and the mission of the Mendocino County Long Valley Library branch!



## The Friends of the Round Valley Public Library

P.O. Box 620, Covelo, CA 95428

President Ed Tepas, Facebook: The Friends of the Round Valley Public Library

Meets monthly the first Friday of every month at 5:00 PM in Library Commons.



The Round Valley Branch was named the Best Small Library in America by Library Journal in 2024. The featured article announcing the award describes ways the Mendocino County Library contributes to the local community's safety and resiliency. It also enumerates the various community resources that have been developed alongside the Round Valley Branch by groups such as the Friends of the Round Valley Public Library and KYBU Radio. The branch is described as a "hub" and "anchor" for various projects. We are honored to be viewed so generously and share this moment with the Round Valley community and a long list of staff members, volunteers, and Friends of the Library.

The Round Valley Branch had over 27,000 visits last year, with 22,193 items checked out from the branch. Folks also visited to use the public computers, get tech questions answered, and have their documents copied, scanned, or printed. They signed up 139 new patrons. 2,447 folks attended one or more of our over 200

programs. The branch added 1,453 new items to the collection – and circulated 13,690 items to patrons in Lake and Sonoma Counties. It was a very busy year!

The Round Valley Branch hosted presentations that entertained, inspired, and informed. In September, author Sara Calvosa Olson shared recipes from her cookbook, *Chimi Nu'am*, which translates to "Let's Eat!" in the Karuk language. Cookbook lovers gathered in the community room to hear the author's delicious and inventive takes on Native food styles from across California.

There has been a library in town for almost fifty years, started by a few volunteers donating their own collections, eventually in 1989 becoming part of the County of Mendocino Library system. The Round Valley Branch Library has been in the new location since 2010. It has one full time librarian, three part time librarians and a host of volunteers. There is bookshelf store with books for sale inside the library.

The local library is the hub, the heart, of much of the community. Along with a beautiful, clean, well-lit space graced with a collection of relevant volumes, documents, exhibits, art, and cultural artifacts it provides many of the necessary elements for a vibrant, functioning society. There is a community room for meetings and parties, with comfortable leather chairs and a fireplace, plus the Walnut Grove Park which has a Friday Farmer's Market for the local organic produce. The certified commercial kitchen provides a legal place for people to process their baked or canned goods for sale, as well as the core equipment for the Walnut Grove Cafe in the lobby of the library commons.

### **Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library**

105 North Main Street, Ukiah, CA 95482

(707) 510-6270

Email: [Friendsofthelibrary.ukiah@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofthelibrary.ukiah@gmail.com)

Website: [UkiahLibraryFriends.com](http://UkiahLibraryFriends.com)

The Ukiah Valley Friends of the Library meets monthly every third Thursday at the library at 4:00.

The Ukiah FOL had a very successful year fundraising for the Ukiah Library. The Community Foundation awarded the FOL a grant for \$5,500 for the mural. They were selected by the Ukiah Natural Foods Co-op to be recipient of a monthly round-up. Donations exceeded \$4,000. The FOL partnered with two restaurants (Panda Express and Chipotle) to receive a portion of one night's income as a donation. The monthly book sale and the bookstore shelf (located in the library) brought in over \$6,000. The Ukiah FOL has donated over \$10,000 this year to the Ukiah Library supporting programs and events for all ages including Teens, Children, Adult, the Yokayo Seed Library and the Summer Reading.

The mural committee was comprised of eight community members; Mo Mulheren, Mendocino County Supervisor; Neil Davis, City of Ukiah; Alyssum Weir, Arts Council of Mendocino County, Laura Fogg, Art Center Ukiah; Mellisa Hannum, County Librarian; Melissa Carr, Ukiah Branch Library; Michele Savoy Library Advisory Board and Barbie Blake, Friends of the Ukiah Library.



The mural painted by Dell Linney will be finished in December.

## **Friends of the Willits Library**

Meets monthly at the library on the third Saturday at 10:00 am.

Since the post covid time frame, the Willits Friends have focused its efforts in providing financial assistance for programs and specific needs. The Friends have a permanent for sale bookshelf, offer weekend sales in the meeting room twice yearly, and have several Pop-up book sales. Working with Better World books has provided some income as well to get all useable books into readers' hands. There are regular free adult and children's books available at the site and books are also provided to the food bank and other community charities.

Recently the Friends administered the Downey Fund which began with a \$15,000 donation earmarked for non-fiction books for the Willits Branch. Members can continue to donate specifically to this fund or choose make general donations.

Allocated improvements to the branch are slated to happen and as they are completed, and the working group will become more active in assessing next steps in improving the site.

The Willits Library Branch has been led by Denise Jesse for over a year. She has worked closely with her staff to further develop a welcoming, responsive and effective system to meet the needs of the community. Currently the library is well staffed with one opening for a Library Assistant. The individual tech help has been needed and well received. In addition to Social Media postings and the County website, emailed monthly newsletters keeps patrons well informed.

The new Laytonville Branch is also overseen by Denise Jesse who is there on a weekly basis supporting that staff. Since opening, Laytonville has extended its hours, offers tech help and a regular Storytime in the branch. The library and staff are working in conjunction with Friends of Laytonville Library on regular programs starting after the new year. As the space is limited, the branch is aiming to provide take and make kits monthly.

Along with some of the other branches, exciting additions have included the Study Booth and Library of Things (Literacy backpacks, Cooking kits, Hiking backpacks, Do-it-yourself toolkits, and Memory kits), hot-spots, Chromebooks, and solar chargers. Many programs are offered for both adults and children. The very popular Penny University, is a weekly facilitated conversation for adults that provides a forum for discussing a wide range of topics among community members. Book Pages and the Seed Library continue to be well used. This past year, the City of Willits provided a funding gift which is being used for an outreach biblio-bike. Staff members do outreach at the Farmers Market and other locations. Most local schools visit the branch, and two small schools regularly use it as their school's library.

One of the most challenging aspects for this branch has been with the facility. In 2020 funding for a new roof was approved and the actual work is finally slated to start in December of this year. Willits has also been in line since that time for a refreshing like Ukiah's branch with much needed carpeting, paint and design changes. Though there have been a variety of reasons for the delays, it is difficult and frustrating for the community and staff to have a building with leaks and contend with a tarp covered roof for such a long period of time. However, everyone welcomes the projected solar panels and improved lighting that will be part of the roof project. Everyone looks forward to seeing all the interior changes that have been talked about come to fruition.

## **The Book Mobile**

Report from Nayo Sicard

I attended the Association of Bookmobile and Outreach services in Indiana this year, a first for me. At the conference, I viewed all the bookmobile vendor sessions with an eye to the upcoming replacement of the Bookmobile. At the conference I learned that the general lifespan of a bookmobile is about 10–12 years, and it is clear with our increasing repair bills that we are just about at the end of the current Bookmobiles lifecycle; after twelve years, this year we have had to replace the seats, turbo actuator and a key bolt. I am satisfied that through my attendance at the conference we can compile enough information to begin the process of replacement (\$300-500,000), investigate the possibility to resell our old bookmobile and gain further insight on applying for any grant funding that might be available. Due to the current and proposed CA rules regarding diesel vehicles, we may not be able to buy another Freightliner chassis, which limits our EV and hybrid potential. Full EV is not available to us as it creates insurmountable issues around gross vehicle weight rating, travel distance per charge, permanent vehicle charging location and additional battery pack weight. However, another hybrid vehicle should work nicely and accomplish our goal of lower carbon footprint while still providing the exemplary service the MCL community is accustomed to.

The Bookmobile and its staff remain a steadfast service for our community, and they have gone the extra mile by delivering items via Outreach van when the Bookmobile is out for repair. This year we were successful in hiring a new driver, Norm Longoria, and he is proving to be a good fit with the Bookmobile community and the MCL team. In addition to making the regular stops during the year, the Bookmobile continues to add stops or programs, by community request, on either a Friday or Monday as the schedule allows. Once a month on Fridays, the Bookmobile now has a stop at Brookside Assisted Living in Ukiah and a monthly storytime in Anderson Valley in partnership with the Coast Community branch. The Bookmobile has also added another school stop at the Forager School in Gualala which begins this month and will be adding three more stops over the next five months at Anderson Valley Jr/Sr High school to help them through the renovation of their school library.

It has been an exciting year on the Bookmobile. After a long search, we were finally able to hire a new driver, Norm Longoria. Norm is doing great and is quickly becoming a vital part of the Bookmobile community. This past year we have continued our regular route while also adding a few additional schools. The Bookmobile continues its community focus through a partnership with the Coast Community branch offering a family storytime in Anderson Valley biweekly, school storytimes upon request, and community outreach events when requested. The Bookmobile continues to offer access to the Summer Reading Program throughout the summer, culminating in a Summer Reading Program event at Elk School. - David Frick, Bookmobile Library Associate

The Friends of the Bookmobile are currently re-organizing.

## **Summary**

Each library has a “Friends Group”. Every FOL has money, volunteers and expertise. The FOL groups would like to work with the County to accomplish more for our libraries.

The Library is working on two state mandates right now:

[SB 321](#) will require Student Success cards in public libraries before 2029. A Student Success card gives elementary school students access to the library. It has been shown that children have better literacy rates when they have access to a public library card. Currently, Fort Bragg and Coast Community branches are working with their school systems to get Student Success cards for all students from pre-K through senior in high school. Once this pilot has been successful and any challenges have been addressed, we will bring it to the inland branches so all the libraries will be in compliance before the deadline.

We are also working on [AB 1825](#). The California Freedom to Read Act prohibits public libraries from banning books or other materials because of the topics, views, ideas, or opinions contained in them or in a manner that discriminates based on race. It also requires that Collection Development Policies, which include a statement of concern/request for reconsideration of materials, be submitted to the State Librarian by 2026. Mellisa Hannum is leading an ad hoc committee that is nearing completion of a new policy which reflects the requirements set forth in AB 1825 while also reflecting the mission, vision, and values of Mendocino County Library.

### **Requests:**

The LAB would like to request the Board to make it a priority for the classification studies of the Library positions.

The LAB would like to know how the Measure O Capital funds are being invested.