



Solano County
LIBRARY

Go Anywhere From Here
ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

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You have brought
our family so much
joy during the
pandemic.

Thank you.



DIRECTOR'S WELCOME

I am pleased to present Solano County Library's annual report for fiscal year 2020/2021.

In July 2020, we found ourselves still faced with the challenge of serving our communities during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and I couldn't be prouder of our staff, volunteers, and community partners, and their adaptability to provide accessible programs and deliver equitable services to residents while protecting the health and safety of customers and staff.

Through the responsiveness and creativity of staff, we expanded our 24/7 services through our website, increasing access to e-resources, databases, and learning platforms; offered curbside pickup service; opened our branches by appointment; adapted adult literacy services to a virtual platform; eliminated overdue fines to create a more equitable and accessible library system; and created virtual programs for all ages. During this past year we truly realized our vision of unifying the County by providing our unique and diverse communities with quality library resources and services and inspiring residents to achieve success, live in healthy and vibrant communities, and engage in creative, collaborative, and cultural activities.

We ended the year with our branches open for public access without restriction and prepared to serve as cooling centers during summer heat-related events, and by offering in-person programs in outdoor settings. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support as we modified our services and programs to best meet your needs.

This report highlights our accomplishments of the past year, showcasing the flexibility, resilience, and innovation of staff in serving our residents and our communities. Solano County Library is here for you!

Suzanne Olawski
Director of Library Services

MISSION

We are the people, places, and services that spark curiosity, inspire creativity, and champion learning.

VISION

We unify the County, providing our unique and diverse communities with quality library resources and services. We inspire all residents to achieve success, live in healthy and vibrant communities, and engage in creative, collaborative, and cultural activities.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS

IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING

Events & Programs: **102**

Program Attendance: **12,206**
(includes 8,400 youth Take & Make Kits)



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING



Programs: **545**

Attendance: **4,940**

2021 Summer
Reading Challenge
Participants:



5,942
registrants
read **11,000**
books

Time Spent Reading
During the Summer
Reading Challenge:

395,829 minutes =
275 days



SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook followers:
8,064 (up 21%!)



Twitter followers:
2,845



Instagram followers:
2,456 (up 23%!)



TikTok followers:
1,169 (up 96%!)

SERVICES

In-person Library Visits: **306,870**

Website Visits: **631,079**

Website Pages Viewed: **1,236,329**



Number of
Borrowers:
153,128



Questions
Answered:
37,082



Curbside
Pickups:
58,763

Total Library
Volunteer Hours: **3,923**

Adults Participating in
Literacy Program: **352**

Adult Literacy
Instructional Hours: **10,339**

Live One-to-One
tutor.com Sessions: **11,475**
(up 22%!)

Books Added in
Pediatric Clinics: **14,710**

Computer
Sessions: **35,483**

COLLECTIONS



Digital Downloads: **266,666**
(up 44%!)

WiFi Hotspots Borrowed: **1,721**

Items Borrowed: **1,335,062**





PASSIONATELY COMMITTED

Staff are deeply committed to providing our community with the utmost in service and support.

Welcome Back

In the Summer of 2020, Solano County Library reopened its branches six days a week by appointment after months of being available primarily for curbside service. Since then, the Library gradually restored its operations while being mindful of safety protocols. Once again, Library users can browse collections, pick up holds, use computers, attend programs, and interact with their favorite library staff.

Curbside Service

Many library users were more than happy to be back in our libraries but for those that wanted contactless interactions, we continued to offer curbside pickup by appointment. The Library scheduled 58,763 curbside service appointments.

While in-person programs were on hiatus, the youth staff provided monthly themed Take and Make Kits which were very popular with the community. The kits included a range of activities and families were encouraged to join online Zoom programs where participants could craft together with library staff. The kits were fun and offered cultural, creative, and educational aspects as well. 8,400 youth kits were distributed.

Virtual Events

With limitations on in-person services, library staff were creative in finding ways to continue services and programs to the community. Storytimes shifted to weekly live streaming events on Facebook or Instagram. Book clubs were moved online to Zoom meetings so library users could continue interacting and engaging in conversations with other book lovers. The Library hosted virtual author events which were well attended and resulted in a great deal of engagement with the community. Big Freedia, a popular hip hop artist and author, provided an entertaining interview via Zoom. Mia Manansala, a Filipino American mystery author, also joined the Library virtually to share her writing craft and upcoming book.

With a grant from the California State Library, Solano County Library was able to offer a series of "Teen Survival for Quarantine" programs which included kits that correlated with online classes designed to reflect a diversity of youth interests. Online classes ranged from yoga, car ownership, to teen writing workshops.

Documentary Series

Staff explored the local history of Solano County and created a documentary series called “Solano Stories.” The videos bring to life stories from local residents and showcases Solano County’s rich history.

Watch these videos and more at youtube.com/solanolibrary

Solano Stories: Japanese Communities in Vacaville
Solano Stories: The Vacaville Pruners Struke
Solano Stories: Cement City

PRExcellence Award

Staff tapped into their creative sides by providing responsive virtual programming and developing entertaining videos which featured the Library’s digital offerings. Solano County Library won a PRExcellence Award from the California Library Association for one of the videos.

The award was given for a “Library Commercial – Monster Battle” video that was posted to the Library’s various social media platforms. Many projects from all over California were considered as superb examples of library promotions and public relations efforts. The California Library Association’s PRExcellence Award Committee selected the video as a winner of the award based on its humor, creativity, and originality.

Partnerships to Support Early Learning

Along with Solano County Office of Education and First 5 Solano, the Library helped provide 5,500 backpacks for pre-K and kindergartners at Solano public schools. The backpacks included school supplies as well as books, handouts for parents regarding screen time, library services, and learning materials to engage young learners and families.

Through the Library’s Reach Out and Read program, over 14,000 books were distributed to local pediatric offices to encourage parents to read aloud to their children. Reach Out and Read is a pediatric literacy program the Library supports in partnership with small health clinics in the county and larger medical groups such as NorthBay Healthcare Foundation, Sutter Regional Medical Foundation and Kaiser Permanente. Reach Out and Read makes literacy promotion a standard part of pediatric care and the demand for books is growing each year.

Partnership to Promote Culture and Education

In partnership with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, the Library shared social media posts to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Posts highlighted the history and culture of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. Videos included cooking demonstrations as well as traditional games.



Outdoor Programs

In May, library staff began to shift from virtual programs to in-person programs outdoors. Families were eager to be back in-person with their favorite storytime staff. The open-air storytimes were often held at a library’s patio, grassy area, or courtyard. For branches without large outdoor space, librarians

partnered with their city to offer storytimes at various park locations. Outdoor storytimes proved to be incredibly popular and were well attended by the community.

LIFE CHANGING

Our services and collection of resources can transform one's life—whether it's finding a job, learning a new skill, or discovering a poem.

Literacy

The Library's Adult Literacy Program has helped adults meet their literacy goals. Some goals may include learning to vote, reading a newspaper, helping children with homework, using a computer, and getting a better job. The Adult Literacy Program staff work together with trained volunteer tutors to provide services that are life-changing for many community members who need help with reading, writing, or English speaking skills. The Adult Literacy Program continues to provide virtual tutor training and student support services.

Career Online High School (COHS)

Solano County Library, in partnership with the California State Library and generous support of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, offers adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and career certificate online through Career Online High School. Earning a high school diploma is a life-changing achievement. Offering COHS empowers residents to seek new opportunities and transform their lives.

Focus on Equity

Solano County Library was part of the 2021 Book to Action initiative that tackles important issues in the community and encourages reading. The Library partnered with the California State Library and California Library Association to provide community engagement that centered around Equity. Events included a virtual conversation with Dr. Ibram X. Kendi, author of "How to be an Antiracist," and internationally known teacher, Jane Elliott, well-known for her exercise "Blue Eyes & Brown Eyes." The Library encouraged the community to read "Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption" and held a series of book discussions to inspire conversations that examine how inequality affects both individual lives and the community.

"I had an impoverished childhood. Treated for malnutrition. Crumbling shoes. No extracurricular activities. Broke, but not broken. So I immersed myself in everything at [Solano County Library]."





ALWAYS CHANGING

We are always adapting to incorporate the latest tools and resources.

Expanding the Collection

The Library provides an extensive collection including: books, CDs, DVDs, as well as newspapers, and magazines. Solano County Library is always looking at ways to expand its physical and digital offerings to serve its diverse population. The latest digital offering is the OverDrive Magazines, which provides access to over 3,000 magazine titles, including over 100 titles in Spanish, Chinese, and several other languages. The Library also added 100 more Wi-Fi hotspots to help bridge the digital divide.

Special Collections

Solano County Library is home to several unique and special collections that provide rich cultural and intellectual experiences to the community, free of charge. Materials available for checkout include: musical instruments, board games, video games, and binge boxes that are themed collections of 4-6 DVDs packaged together for your convenience and enjoyment. The Library also introduced Vox Books which enable children to listen to an audio recording directly from a printed book- no computer, tablet, or phone required.

Rebranding

Solano County Library marked a new chapter with its rebranding. The brand update positions the Library as modern, fun, welcoming, and inclusive. The new brand is a better reflection of the expert service, incredible content, and unrivaled value that the community has come to expect from the Solano County Library. “Go Anywhere From Here” is the new message which sums up the Library’s warm, welcoming environment that fosters growth and discovery. The branding refresh includes a new logo, printed material, a redesign of the website, and library card designs.

Facilities Master Plan

To prepare for population growth and to continue serving current and future community needs, the Library completed the development of a new 20-year facilities master plan in collaboration with and strategic input from the cities they serve. The plan assessed the existing library system to community needs based on future population growth, library use patterns, collection sizes, and space needs and recommended a set of strategies and capital projects to improve library services in the long term.

ACCESSIBLE. EQUITABLE.

We believe every person has a right to easily access—and use—all that we offer.

Student Access Cards

By forming partnerships with school districts, the Library is working to provide barrier-free access to library resources for students in Solano County through its Student Access Card program. The collaboration benefits the community by increasing literacy and educational success. Students use their student ID as a public library card to access thousands of print and digital resources and online homework help. To date, over 39,556 students are part of the student access card program.

Fine Free

Solano County Library is now fine free to reduce barriers to access. Eliminating fines reflects core values of Solano County Library—to be accessible, to be welcoming, and to ensure we are promoting reading, not preventing it. The new approach allows cardholders a fresh start to rediscover all that their library has to offer.

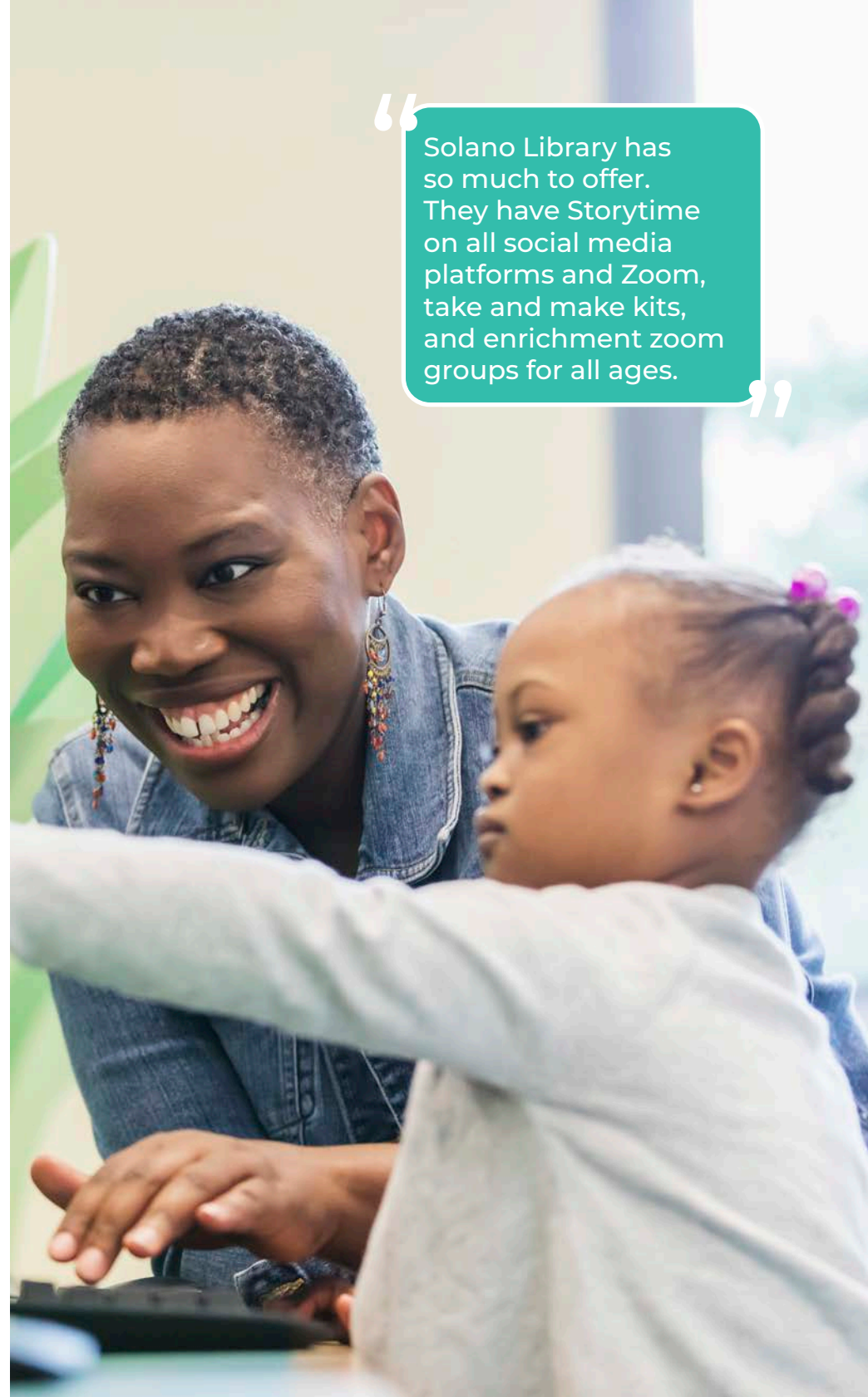
Auto Renewal

The Library is always seeking ways to improve customer experiences by providing easy-to-use services and resources. Auto renewal allows items to be renewed without staff or user intervention. The automatic renewal system permits library users to enjoy their reading and leisure time and not worry about overdue items.

Website

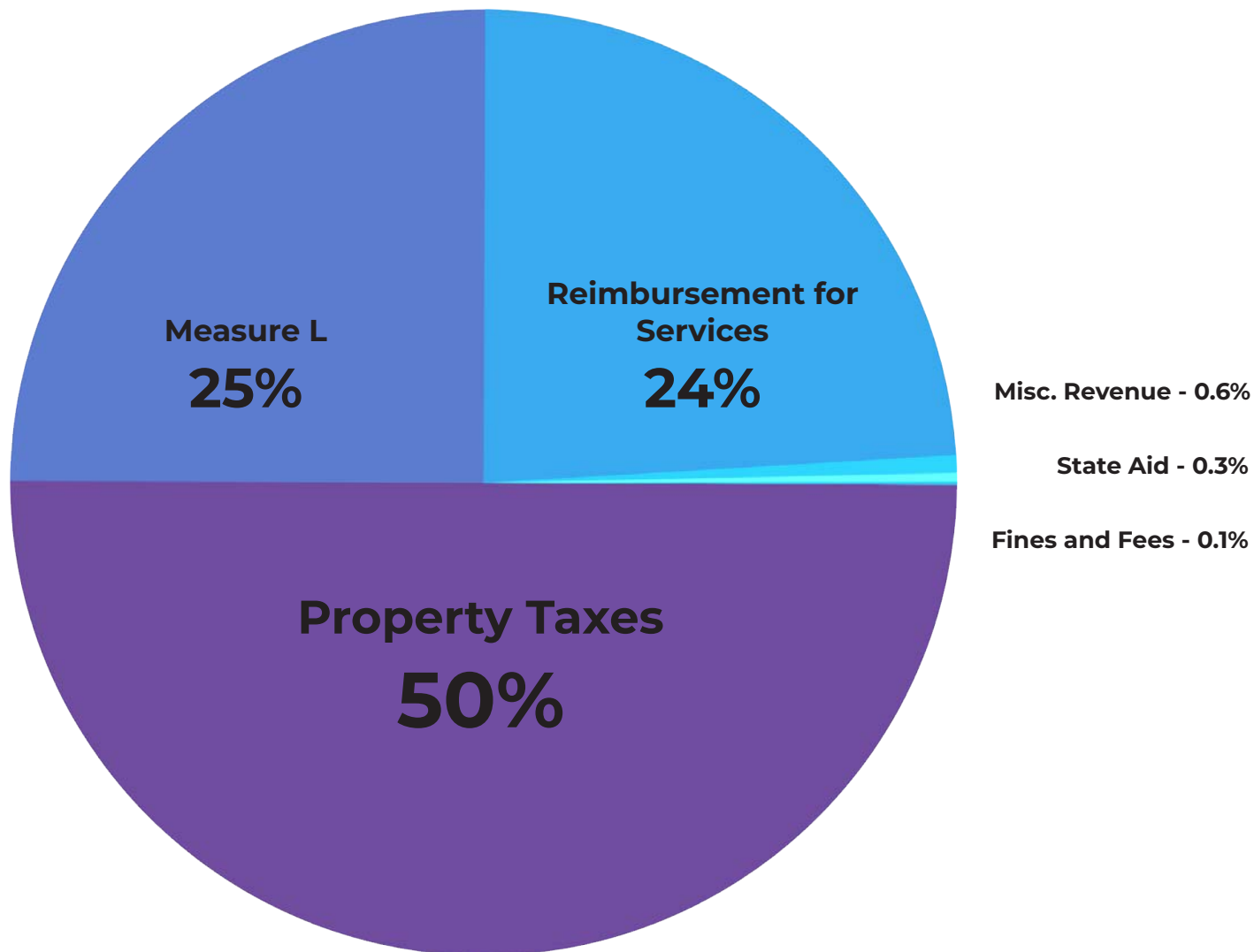
We hope you have been enjoying our new website. Our focus was to create a secure website that was fully optimized for mobile use and we are proud to offer you a professional, mobile, and user-friendly website built around the Solano County Library brand. The new site provides better access to the Library's collection of books and materials and to the programs and services we offer, and is designed to be flexible to serve your future information needs.

Solano Library has so much to offer. They have Storytime on all social media platforms and Zoom, take and make kits, and enrichment zoom groups for all ages.



FUNDING SOURCES

The service and programs offered by the Library are supported by funding from property taxes, a 1/8 of a penny voter-approved sales tax dedicated to library services (Measure L), private and public grants, awards from the California State Library, and monetary gifts and donations received from individuals, businesses, organizations, and trusts.



Measure L

In 1997, voters understood libraries were essential for a community's success and agreed to tax themselves 1/8 of a penny sales tax (Measure B). In return, promises were made: more books, more hours, more programs for youth. In 2012, the 1/8 of a penny sales tax was extended with the support of over an 80% vote (Measure L), ensuring that our libraries continue to be vital centers of inspiration and learning. Solano County Library continually responds to, reflects, and represents our dynamic community. Since the passage of the 1/8 of a penny sales tax, the budget for books, digital resources, and other materials increased by 387% and Library hours per week increased by 111%.

BRANCH LOCATIONS



DIXON LIBRARY

230 N. 1st Street
Dixon, CA 95620



FAIRFIELD CIVIC CENTER LIBRARY

1150 Kentucky Street
Fairfield, CA 94533



FAIRFIELD CORDELIA LIBRARY

5050 Business Center Drive
Fairfield, CA 94534



RIO VISTA LIBRARY

44 S. 2nd Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571



SUISUN CITY LIBRARY

601 Pintail Drive
Suisun City, CA 94585



VACAVILLE CULTURAL CENTER LIBRARY

1020 Ulatis Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687



VACAVILLE TOWN SQUARE LIBRARY

1 Town Square Place
Vacaville, CA 95688



VALLEJO JOHN F. KENNEDY LIBRARY

505 Santa Clara Street
Vallejo, CA 94590



VALLEJO SPRINGTOWNE LIBRARY

1003 Oakwood Avenue
Vallejo, CA 94591



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   : [solanolibrary](https://www.solanolibrary.com)



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