A new chapter for public libraries

BY PETER ROSE

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infection monitoring and preven-

mial Infection Control Consor-

Aires-based researcher and chair-

Michael Johnson is a maintenance manager for Del’s, which has a fleet of electric trucks. The company at Tenth Avenue

Terminal are working to clean up air in nearby communities.

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BY PAUL SISSON

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BY JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH

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Dr. Ron Roberts of Imperial Beach said he has heard of “Drag Queen Story Hour” programs in other communities, but not in Imperial Beach. "It's a place where everybody is receptive," he said, "and the children we've had say, 'Wow, this is really neat!'"

Several new audiences and adopting new missions without losing core support is a balancing act. Yes, there are signs of this. But in a time of near-record-low interest rates and a $46.6 million annual budget that covers less than $500,000 of the city’s $1.0 billion budget, there must be a balance.

‘Drag Queen Story Hour’

In January 2018, Library Director Leslie Devaney co-chaired the launch of the $21 million Mission Hill-Knox Bayside Library (KBL). Then, this summer when it opened in Alpine at North Broadway and National, “you kind of get a sense of the old community library,” Devaney said. “Rich or poor, you are a neighbor.”

“Library use has been to be open and listen to community,” Devaney said. “Our model has always been to be a reflection of our community.”

New libraries still devote space to children’s reading, but the latest developments include spacious meeting rooms in the downtown area. Across the city, these rooms are offered on a first-come, first-served basis to community groups.

“Similar developments across the country, these facilities mean the facility can be used by a variety of organizations, so the library can be used by variety of organizations,” Schaller said. “We have different levels of skills,” Bravo said. “There will be programs that are more simple, others that will require more advanced skills.”

“Books to me are a very personal part of my life,” said Mary Garrett of the city’s North County Regional Library. “They are the foundation of our families, they’re the foundation of our society.”

Privatizing: a mixed record

Library director Phil Yost of the Coastal Bend Regional Library in Corpus Christi, Texas, said he is happy with the private company providing services there for the last year. "It's an experiment that is working — I call it my library," Yost said, "and it seems to be working." He added that this record outstanding service. "This contract is per-

William H. Strickland M.D., who is president of the San Diego Natural History Museum, said a final contract to LSS, "It’s a place where everybody is receptive," he said, "and the children we've had say, 'Wow, this is really neat!'"

The city’s library budget. Even peaks at 0.8 million for the current fiscal year for out-

Korensky Grubert (seated near desk), 15, Avanti Jefferson (with headphones on), 14, James Jones (far left), 13, and other teens are making art in the refacing studio at the Malcolm X Public Library’s Laghet Benbough Teen Idea Lab, which was added to the San Diego Library branch when it was remodeled in 2018.

San Diego Library use

While the number of items checked out has gone in recent years for city libraries for digital offerings.

Average number of items checked out per user San Diego

Above left, Corner Port, 15, who is interning at the library for a school project, watches as a 3D printer makes a piece for a project.

Above right, Rubisco Taylor (left) and LaShan Badett, both 16, work at the library’s candy store Thursday.
“When you talk about science and tech jobs and how minorities and women are under-represented in those fields, it is not because they are not interested. We are trying to be that safe environment where people can be exposed to that.”

Misty Jones, director of the San Diego city library system

That was the story of her father, Lloyd De Llamas. Now a Los Angeles-area developer, he grew up in San Ysidro. In the 1950s, he spent many afternoons in the old San Ysidro branch.

“He always credited the library with helping him on his educational path,” says Jones, whose father, Lloyd De Llamas, was a factor in the decision to approve the new San Ysidro branch. Similar, the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Harley & Bessie Knox Library.

At top, people walk past the newly built Mission Hills-Hillcrest Harley & Bessie Knox Library during the grand opening on San Diego on Saturday.

The family’s $1.5 million donation was a factor in the library with helping him on his educational path,” says Jones, whose father, Lloyd De Llamas, was a factor in the decision to approve the new San Ysidro branch. Similar, the Mission Hills-Hillcrest Harley & Bessie Knox Library.

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