

Annual Report

2023/2024

Stanislaus County Library
www.stanlibrary.org



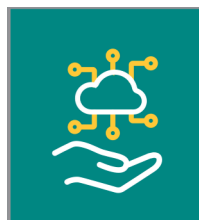


23–24: A Year of Growth & Planning

During this fiscal year, the Library embarked on a strategic planning process to help us write the next chapter. People throughout the county shared input on how the Library could best meet the community's needs. With that input, we developed a strategic plan identifying our goals, roles, mission, and more. In this report, you'll find our year in review through the lens of these identified roles:



Community Hub: Providing environments where community members can meet, engage, and collaborate.



Technology Access: Ensuring that all community members have access to up-to-date technology and digital tools.



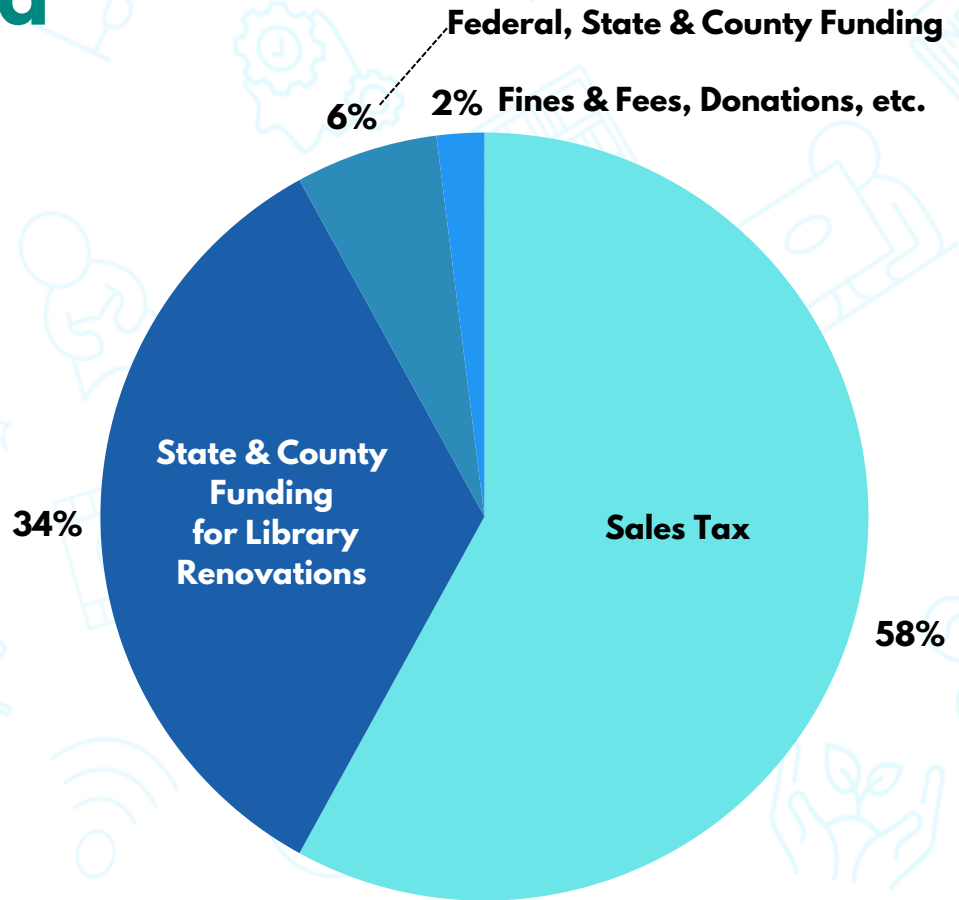
Lifelong Learning: Offering educational programs, literacy initiatives, collections, and resources for all ages.



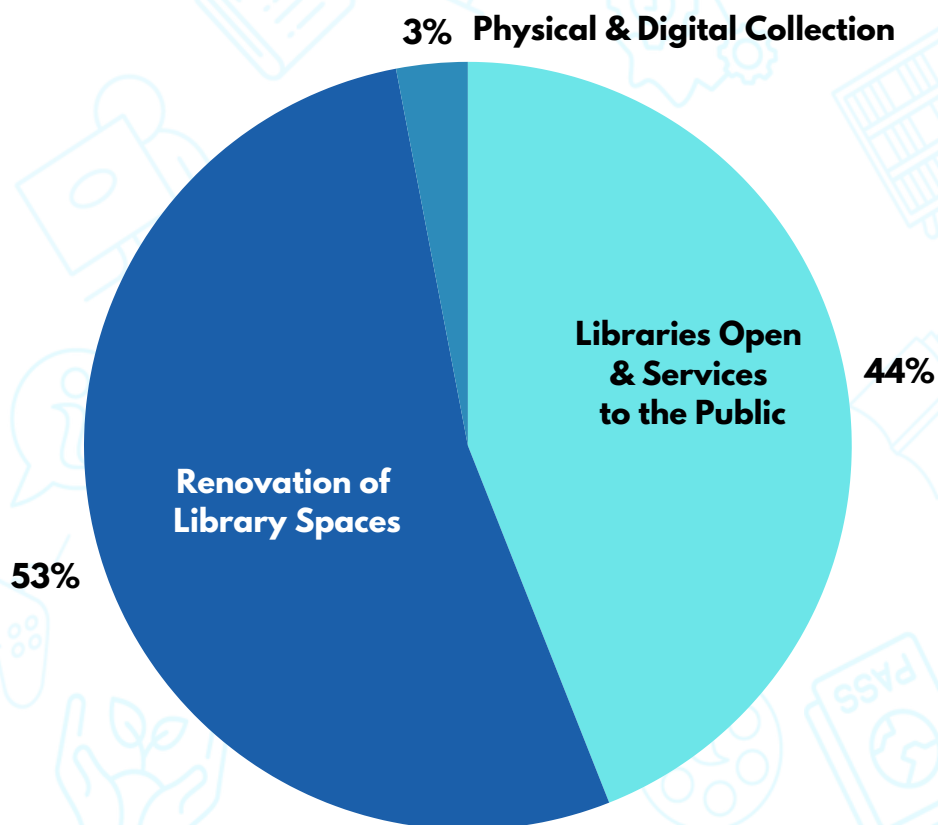
Cultural Center: Promoting cultural enrichment through programs, collections, and events that reflect and celebrate the community's diverse heritage and interests.

Money Invested

Total Revenues:
\$25,355,781



Services & Resources Returned



Total Expenditures:
\$31,911,888

Community Hub

The library is the last place where it doesn't cost money to exist. You can go inside and read a book, browse the internet, research information, etc., and it does not cost you additional money to be there and do those things.

-Library user

FY 23-24 saw investments in and improved access to library facilities throughout Stanislaus County. In August 2023, the library expanded service hours across all locations, adding a total of 91 service hours per week for the community to browse, attend programs, work on homework, apply for jobs, and more.



91 Service
Hours
Added
Per Week

A second safe,
fun, creative
space

Nice Space with
Free activities for
Community ♡



777,197
people walked
through our doors

(That's more than the
number of people who
live in Stanislaus County)


Community Hub

The library is a vital resource to our community. It nurtures the love of reading and learning from early childhood through our twilight years.

–Library User

Survey Respondents Indicated



85% 
Satisfied or Very Satisfied
with the Library



86% 
The Library Adds Significant or
Considerable Value to Their Lives



91% 
Learned Something to Share
With Their Children at a Library
Early Childhood Program



Community Hub: Modesto Improvement Project

In Fall 2023, the library received a **\$9.8 million Building Forward Library grant** from the State of California to address critical infrastructure needs at the Modesto Library. Areas to be addressed include heating, ventilation, air conditioning, elevators, asbestos remediation, lighting, and more.



Modesto Library, 1971

Considered the main branch of the Stanislaus County Library system, the Modesto Library's current facility opened in 1971. While minor improvements and changes have been made to the building since then, the Modesto Improvement Project will constitute the most significant improvements to the Modesto Library in the past 53 years.

Additional financial support for the project comes from the **Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors'** Building Community Services Investment in the county library system, **local donations to the Friends of the Modesto Library's Lifelong Legacy campaign**, and the **Modesto City Council**.



Modesto Library, 2024

The project is estimated to be completed in Summer 2026. We look forward to bringing the community a revitalized library that will help bolster our role as a community hub and continue to serve Stanislaus County for the next 50 years and beyond.

Lifelong Learning

[The library] is a lifeline to learn about different ideas, locations, recipes, and stories. Each book helps me create a new chapter in my own life.

- Library user

From Story Times to teen poetry workshops and Master Gardener classes, the Library supported a wide variety of learning opportunities this year. With each event, community members had a chance to engage their creativity, learn skills, explore interests, and make meaningful connections with others.

Early Learning Programs



993 events
attended by
27,540
children and caregivers



77 Bilingual
Story Times &
WiggleWorms

Teen Programs



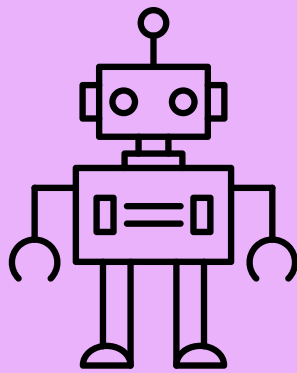
165 events
attended by
1,872
young adults.

Adult and Senior Programs



425 events
where
5,229
adults learned new skills.

Programs for Ages 6 - 11



1,033 events
where

46,104
people created & discovered.



Lifelong Learning

We homeschool. Our learning depends on the library and its services.

– Library User

Libraries are more than buildings; they are the materials you borrow, the entertainment you find within a book or DVD, and the knowledge you gain through our collection, programs, and services.

Here's a look at how you used our collection this year:



1,214,486

books, audiobooks, DVDs,
and magazines borrowed



703,965

of the items borrowed
were children's materials



416

hotspots
circulated



934

Reading Pathways kits,
ukuleles, park passes &
backpacks borrowed



247,614

eBooks, eMagazines,
and digital audiobooks
checked out.



166

Chromebooks
checked out



Lifelong Learning: Potter the Otter Exhibit

The "Potter the Otter: A Healthy Adventure" exhibit opened at the Nick W. Blom Salida Regional Library in January 2024. This interactive STEM*-based traveling exhibit is based on the children's book series *Potter the Otter*, published by FIRST 5 Santa Clara County.

Presented in partnership with FIRST 5 Santa Clara, FIRST 5 Stanislaus, and the Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, the exhibit is designed for ages 5 and under to learn about healthy eating and related healthy habits. It included a play market and kitchen with plastic fruits and vegetables, an area for toddlers to "plant" and "harvest" plastic vegetables, and more.

That was an amazing experience for my little ones! –Library user

116 people turned out for opening day celebrations, which included a ribbon cutting, Story Time, book giveaway, and a meet-and-greet with Potter the Otter. The exhibit remained available for families to explore for free through June 3, 2024.

*Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math



The Potter the Otter exhibit was very interactive and unique.
– Library User

Lifelong Learning: Maker Spaces

So many amazing programs ranging from toddler/babies to adults. It truly is a safe haven for many people in the community.

– Library User

What is a Maker Space?

A Maker Space is a collaborative workspace where all ages and skill levels can come together to create, learn, and discover using a variety of tools and materials. At the Modesto and Turlock Libraries, these spaces include equipment and resources such as:

- **3D pens**
- **Sewing machines**
- **Craft supplies**
- **Sublimation printers**
- **Software for digital design or coding**

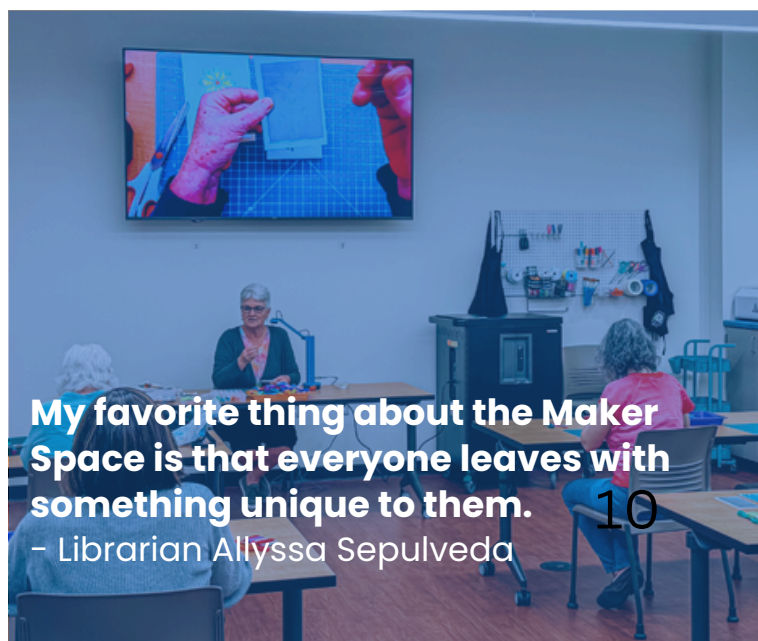
Maker Space Events

Over the past year, our Maker Space programs have encouraged creativity, innovation, and hands-on learning, providing access to technology and materials that people might not have at home. Popular events have included:

- **Sewing classes**
- **Wearable circuits**
- **Beading**
- **Sublimation printing**
- **Stop-Motion Animation**

Programming in this space has given us opportunities to partner with local subject matter experts on a variety of topics, including the **Master Gardeners**, **Opera Modesto**, **Beyer High School's Iron Patriots**, and more. It's also helped us facilitate collaboration among program participants, where events such as Turlock Library's **Stop-Motion LEGO® Creations** lead participants to work together to problem-solve as they create stop-motion films.

We're excited to see what future innovations will take place at the Library.



My favorite thing about the Maker Space is that everyone leaves with something unique to them.

– Librarian Allyssa Sepulveda



Lifelong Learning: Full STEAM Ahead Grant

In Spring 2024, the Stanislaus County Library received a grant to increase STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) learning for all ages. This funding supported early math in Story Times, Maker Camps for kids, Project STEAM kits for teens and adults, and the development of a board game library.



Hands-On Learning

During Citizen Science Month in April, **12** Maker Camps were attended by **146** children. Participants had the opportunity to learn STEAM concepts through creative maker programming. For example, a child at the Modesto Library's Maker Camp on circuits came away from the event excited that they could successfully identify a circuit and its use. Parents and caregivers reported being impressed with how much their young makers learned.

Project STEAM Kits

The popular Project STEAM kits – initially developed for kindergarten through 6th-grade students – were expanded to include kits for teens and adults and Spanish versions of themed K-6th grade kits. Each Project STEAM kit contains English or Spanish books and digital and screen-free activities to help users better understand the kit's STEAM theme. For example, the newly created Leather Working kit for teens and adults includes all the materials and tools learners need to make leather bookmarks.



**...we love the new STEAM bags.
[The library is] our go-to place for
all things for our homeschool,
outside of curriculum.**

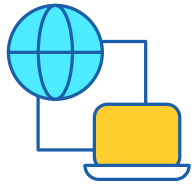
-Library user

Technology Access

**...the computer services are wonderful!
I use the printers all the time!**

-Library User

From public computer use to WiFi sessions and a digital library that provides access to digital materials 24/7, the numbers reflect the important role the library plays in providing access to technology in our community.



56,233
Computer Sessions



140,852
Wi-Fi Logins



191,199
eBooks Borrowed



3,864
eMagazines
Checked Out



52,551
Digital Audio
Borrowed





Libby.

The library reading app
from OverDrive

Technology Access: The New Libby App

In fiscal year 2023–2024, the Library continued to see increased usage of our digital library, comprised of eBooks, digital audiobooks, and magazines. This year's circulation of digital materials comprised **17% of total library material circulation** compared to 15% in the previous year. However, with the increasing cost of hoopla Digital checkouts leading to limited availability of hoopla materials, combined with feedback from our users, the Library transitioned from hoopla Digital to Libby in May 2024.

Libby's popular platform allows us to curate a digital collection for our community, with an in-app option for users to request titles be added to the library's digital collection. Unlike similar platforms, Libby is also compatible with Kindles.

Within the first day of launch, our Libby collection saw:

140 
Titles Borrowed

53 
Titles On Hold

Over the next two months
that number jumped to

5,379 
**eBooks and digital
audiobooks borrowed**

Get started with
our digital library



Cultural Center



...a place to learn, explore, dream or be creative.

Library user

Youth Poet Laureate

The Stanislaus County Library, in partnership with the Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry, the Stanislaus County Office of Education, and Modesto Junior College, helped select Turlock's **Faith A. Delgado** as the inaugural Stanislaus County Library Youth Poet Laureate. The Youth Poet Laureate program highlights and celebrates youth voices committed to artistic excellence, social engagement, and social impact.

Upon selection, the Youth Poet Laureate receives a \$500 honorarium and is tasked with a project to promote the art of poetry in Stanislaus County. This can take the form of workshops, initiatives, and similar programming. During this inaugural year, the Youth Poet Laureate hosted "Painless Poetry," a series of workshops at the Turlock Library designed to help teens explore spoken word and performance poetry.

In May 2024, the torch was passed to Oakdale High sophomore **Zoe Byron** as the county's second Youth Poet Laureate.

Trash to Treasure

In June 2024, the Library partnered with the **Stanislaus Arts Council** to bring the exhibit "Trash to Treasure: Loving Discarded Art" to libraries throughout Stanislaus County. This exhibition featured artists who transformed discarded materials into art.

The exhibit was a fantastic opportunity for library visitors to have a visual representation of the year's Summer Reading Challenge sustainability theme, as well as inspiration for their own creative projects. With **35 art pieces** spread across 9 of our libraries, this exciting exhibit offered an incentive for community members to explore Stanislaus County libraries beyond their local branch.



Cultural Center: Passport Fair

I was able to get help with my passport papers there. It was so easy and they are very informed.

–Library user



Library Passport Application Processing

The library supports the exploration of new interests, skills, or places, making passport services a perfect fit. In 2012, we began offering passport services at the Modesto Library. Over the years, we've expanded our passport processing services to include the Salida and Turlock branches. Typically, passport services at the library are available by appointment only. These appointments can be made online through the Library's website.

Stanislaus County Passport Fair

In March 2024, the Library partnered with the County Clerk-Recorder's office and the Stanislaus County Law Library to offer a streamlined path to obtaining a passport. With passport appointments booking an average of **60 to 90 days out**, the Passport Fair was a timely opportunity for the community to secure travel documents.

The Passport Fair was held on Saturday, March 23, at the County-Clerk Recorder's office, the Law Library, and Stanislaus County Library's Modesto, Salida, and Turlock branches. County Information Technology Central facilitated communication throughout the event, sharing wait times at different locations.

At the Modesto, Salida, and Turlock Libraries, dedicated library staff worked to ensure an efficient process. By the end of the day, the Library had processed **386** passports across all three locations.

For more information on passport services at the library, visit www.stanlibrary.org.

**Passport Fair
Applications
Processed**



180 Modesto

116 Salida

90 Turlock



We build community by creating opportunities and providing resources for connection, learning, exploration, and innovation.