



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

June 15, 2026  
Agenda Item No. 9

**TO:** BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

**FROM:** Library Services Department  
Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director  
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**PREPARED BY:** Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director

**TITLE:** Report of May Library Activities

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## **MELISSA HARTSON, LIBRARY SERVICES DIRECTOR**

### **Outreach**

Branch and Youth Services Coordinator Annika Helmuth, Cultural Arts Assistant Camille Escareal-Garcia and I attended the Corona del Mar Residents Association Annual Town Hall at Sherman Library and Gardens. The event provided an opportunity to engage with 51 residents, share information about Library services, programs, and resources, and highlight upcoming Cultural Arts offerings. Staff also distributed informational materials and promotional giveaways.

I had the opportunity to speak to the Newport Beach Foundation's Distinguished Citizen Program. My presentation to the group concentrated on a high-level overview of the Newport Beach Public Library, including the Cultural Arts Division, the Library's mission and role in serving the community, and specific opportunities for civic engagement connected to the Library.

## **WHELHOUSE LIST FOR LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

- Witte Hall Grand Opening: Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Thursday, July 9, 4 p.m.  
Witte Hall
- Witte Hall Grand Opening: Sunday Musicale  
Sunday, July 12, 3 p.m.  
Witte Hall
- Witte Hall Grand Opening: Community Celebration  
Saturday, July 11, 2 – 4 p.m.  
Witte Hall
- Concert on the Green: Redneck Rodeo  
Sunday, July 19, 6 – 7:30 p.m.  
Civic Center Green
- Witte Hall Grand Opening: Shaun Tomson  
Saturday, July 11, 7 p.m.  
Witte Hall
- Board of Library Trustees Meeting  
Monday, July 20, 5 p.m.  
City Council Chambers, Civic Center

**REBECCA LIGHTFOOT, LIBRARY SERVICES MANAGER**

**Literacy**

Project Adult Literacy (PAL) Coordinator Christina Smith finished the California Library Literacy Services 2026-27 Grant Application. PAL staff started preparations for International Literacy Day and *In Our Own Words* booklet. The PAL office has new furniture thanks to a Literacy Spaces grant.

**Programming**

In May, the Library hosted its final Storytellers writing workshops of the season before the summer break. *Storytellers 2.0* (3-part series) and *Promoting and Marketing Yourself as a Writer* were both well received with strong attendance and enthusiasm.

**Facilities**

The exterior of the Central Library (Central) was repainted with colors chosen by consultant Robert Coffee, whose architectural firm designed Witte Hall. The majority of construction fencing in the parking lot was removed in May and the lot was slurry sealed on Sunday, May 24, and Monday, May 25. Additional parking spaces reopened with the removal of the construction fence and completion of the slurry seal project.

**ANNIKA HELMUTH, BRANCH AND YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR**

**Branch Activities**

Crean Mariners Branch (Mariners) welcomed strong participation in storytimes, STEAM activities, LEGO Wednesdays, and BARK programs, with total monthly attendance over 3,400. Outreach efforts focused on promoting the Summer Reading Program (SRP) at Woodland Elementary and Kaiser Elementary and a volunteer orientation at the Branch. The Seed Library remained a popular resource, with 263 seed packets checked out, and the branch returned to full staffing with the transfer of a Balboa Page. Several facility improvement projects were also completed, including routine repairs, lighting upgrades, and window washing.

Balboa Branch (Balboa) remained closed for construction with offsite Preschool Storytimes at Marina Park serving 70 attendees. Branch employees also continued service needs throughout the library system.

Corona del Mar Branch (CdM) hosted more than 1,200 children and caregivers in May through storytimes, crafts, educational play, and special programs. Notable activities included an ocean-themed Sensory Play program, a visit from Harbor Day School first-grade classes, and participation in the OASIS Senior Resource Expo. Routine maintenance included patio power washing, window cleaning, and replacement of the self-checkout station computer.

**Youth Services**

At Central, over 5,800 participants engaged in a variety of learning and enrichment opportunities, including Coding for Kids, Art Space, STEAM Lab, Book Club, Crafternoon, and BARK. Coding for Kids remained at capacity throughout the month, while Crafternoon attracted a large group of participants who transformed surplus materials into imaginative creations. BARK provided another meaningful literacy experience, with one young reader gaining confidence as she read to multiple therapy dogs and successfully tackled challenging words she had previously struggled with.

**Outreach**

SRP promotion was a major focus in May, with library representatives visiting Andersen, Kaiser, Lincoln, Mariners, Newport, Newport Coast, and Woodland elementary schools to introduce students to this year's reading challenge. More than 3,000 students, parents, and teachers were reached through these presentations. SRP bookmarks were dropped off for students at Eastbluff, Harbor View, and Newport Heights elementary schools where scheduling conflicts prevented visits this year. Additional engagement opportunities included Harbor View Elementary's STEM Night, a class visit from Our Lady Queen of Angels School at Central, and the OASIS Senior Resource Expo, where community members learned about library resources, digital services, and upcoming events.

**Personnel**

Branch and Youth Services Coordinator Annika Helmuth attended a professional development webinar on the Science of Reading, focusing on current literacy research and the role of public libraries in supporting emerging readers. Insights from the training will help inform Youth Services collections, programs, and early literacy initiatives.

**ANDREW KACHATURIAN, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR****Teen Services**

May was a busy month for teens preparing for Advanced Placement (AP) exams and finals. As a result, there was a smaller turnout for the Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) on May 13, with nine teens participating while others were home studying. We used the opportunity to perform a dry run of the Teen Volunteer Orientation with the YAAC members, finalizing procedures for meetings held in May. YAAC members signed up for volunteering shifts, made suggestions for an Adventure display, discussed what books they are reading, and participated in a Star Wars trivia game.

There were also four *Snack and Study* events throughout May, timed to coincide with AP exams and finals. While attendance is difficult to track as teens tend to settle throughout the Library, there were 83 teens counted in the Sword Meeting Room, which was made available to the teens and a plethora of teens throughout the Library.

One more teen event for May was the Ensign Expo of the Arts. This brought Librarian Danielle Yang and Library Assistant Greg Johnson to Ensign to promote the Teen SRP and advertise for volunteering opportunities. Ninety teens and their families stopped by and spoke to staff. They were excited to learn about the ability to volunteer at the Library and participate in the reading program.

Librarian Yang held three Teen Volunteer Orientation meetings in May, with two at Central and one at Mariners. There were 86 attendees altogether, with 77 from the Central sessions and nine from Mariners. The volunteers are an immense help throughout SRP, and these opportunities are sought out by local teens for their volunteer hours.

Rounding out teen events in May was a CollegeWise College Prep event on May 20. Low attendance may have attributed to ongoing examinations and the teens having so much going on this time of year. However, those that did participate were able to spend time with the CollegeWise counselor asking more personalized questions.

**Adult Services**

Adult staff were led through updated Sound Lab and Media Lab procedures by Library Assistant Johnson, who helped add some new equipment to the Sound Lab in May with the assistance of the City IT Department.

Materials selectors continued to place orders and perform collection maintenance within the Library's collections with an eye towards the end of the fiscal year in June.

**Staffing**

There is one vacant part-time Library Assistant position at Central.

**MIRANDA GENTRY, CIRCULATION COORDINATOR**

**Staffing**

Eric Carmody was promoted to part-time Support Services Aide, and Sofia Montgomery started at Central as a Library Page.

**NOTICING:**

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).

**Proquest Articles Retrieved 2025-2026**

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	AVG.
Business Databases	3021	*	*	7149	1288	1206	1705	1264	1780	1417	1885		2302
Newspapers--Current	913	*	*	1000	798	641	618	460	600	471	709		690
Newspapers--Historical	3265	*	*	1196	1511	2419	1674	1732	1222	1350	1256		1736
Magazines	47	*	*	1054	31	17	22	26	14	17	21		139

Database FY Comparisons	JUL 2025	AUG 2025	SEP 2025	OCT 2025	NOV 2025	DEC 2025	JAN 2026	FEB 2026	MAR 2026	APR 2026	MAY 2026	JUN 2026	YTD 25/26
<b>Tracked by #searches</b>													
A to Z Databases	481	438	234	182	339	581	347	230	187	192	295		3506
Alexander Street	253	682	457	1123	236	574	170	49	302	779	72		4697
Ancestry	200	205	9	306	521	150	243	334	238	347	180		2733
AskART	12	17	9	13	31	11	104	41	23	68	74		403
Brainfuse JobNow/VetNow	107	62	25	3	4	3	**	**	**	**	**		204
Britannica School Edition	9	0	82	248	75	15	5	0	83	112	8		637
Ckbk	§	§	§	§	§	§	1111	888	504	244	¥		2747
Exploring Race in Society	24	14	4	40	4	18	7	21	14	3	41		190
Gale Archives Unbound	7	4	16	17	32	29	2	3	15	4	0		129
Gale Directory Library	45	25	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇	◇		70
Gale in Context: Biography	1	8	14	81	13	2	23	51	47	22	6		268
Gale in Context: Elementary	2	0	6	6	7	2	3	2	1	14	3		46
Gale in Context: Environmental	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2
Gale in Context: Opposing View	17	10	10	216	21	58	61	9	41	21	1		465
Gale Interactive: Science	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Gale Literature Resource Center	16	17	6	116	9	3	9	22	106	64	17		385
Gale eBooks	52	15	15	60	172	10	12	31	68	82	22		539
HeritageQuest	405	325	180	90	587	173	1	109	252	81	193		2396
Legal Information Ref Center	64	57	22	130	59	70	129	86	42	89	76		824
National Geographic	12	26	20	46	24	16	33	36	10	26	58		307
National Geographic Kids	6	34	10	26	12	43	7	20	120	13	35		326
NewsBank †	1239	1166	1318	1367	978	985	1644	1261	1176	1190	1186		13510
NovelList Plus	48	41	65	81	78	79	46	27	88	55	22		630
NovelList K-8 Plus	12	146	33	55	53	90	27	14	26	49	15		520
ProQuest	4466	*	*	31725	2443	2182	2685	1973	2632	2095	2872		53073
Proquest eLibrary	0	33	23	4	1	1	4	0	1	1	0		68
Reference Solutions Business	322	609	392	412	105	319	493	169	435	266	246		3768
Reference Solutions Residential	12	29	14	19	25	17	8	30	12	53	22		241
SIRS Discoverer	4	12	53	13	1	0	0	0	0	4	0		87
SIRS Issues Researcher	267	659	1881	379	1	0	1	0	1	0	18		3207
StatsUSA (formerly State Statistics)	5	6	5	47	20	2	6	7	2	0	8		108
World Book Online	9	39	53	33	13	84	53	43	73	10	26		436
<b>Tracked by #page views</b>													
Artist Works	3	2	6	3	3	1	5	1	3	3	5		35
Consumer Reports	2475	2156	1853	1934	1981	1558	1117	1401	1537	1545	1583		19140
CultureGrams	68	36	4	49	115	23	130	26	85	15	124		675
Morningstar	3697	7618	4826	3483	3080	3973	4356	4371	3993	3602	2929		45928
RealQuest	8	14	121	36	3	10	14	59	Ω	4	1		270
Tumblebooks	35	33	11	33	25	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡	‡		137
Value Line	9891	8507	10381	11564	9057	8620	10684	9517	10608	8711	¥		97540
Wall Street Journal	3393	3469	1439	4086	3856	4452	4545	3350	5341	4866	5583		44380
<b>Tracked by courses</b>													
LinkedIn Learning	254	262	209	484	431	210	138	183	251	206	246		2874
<b>Tracked by books logged</b>													
Beanstack	7403	2832	1877	2334	1662	1097	2045	2215	1813	4630	5190		33098
<b>Tracked by Hours Used</b>													
ABC Mouse †	127.02	130.58	81.07	97.93	125.65	109.97	107.66	73.00	81.55	75.78	84.00		1094.21
Beanstack	7738	1554	385	266	360	270	240	228	140	238	433		11852
Rosetta Stone	28.82	33.70	57.47	85.32	57.01	50.27	70.66	56.08	64.76	58.87	49.07		612.03

Notes:

- \* Accurate date unavailable for August and September 2025. Data restored in October 2025
- \*\* Brainfuse subscription cancelled January 2026
- § Ckbk subscription added January 2026
- ◇ Gale Directory Library subscription cancelled September 2025

- Ω Unable to retrieve any statistics for March 2026
- ‡ Tumblebooks Library subscription cancelled December 2025
- † Corrected values for ABC Mouse and Newsbank added.
- ¥ Data unavailable at the time of posting

**NBPL Website Usage 2025-2026**

Metric	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr'	May	Jun	Average	Total
Total Users	28317	28872	26436	36733	27126	25358	32957	30831	30505	100961	37061		36832	405157
New Users	14608	15467	14189	23841	15006	13147	19502	18281	15702	21329	27926		18091	198998
Sessions	47805	50528	45583	55929	43442	41915	51715	47232	48103	118400	60605		55569	611257
Pageviews	122016	123728	105782	122541	103499	101665	122042	107786	115463	121591	128551		115879	1274664
Sessions Per User	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2		2	--
Pages Per Session	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2		2	--
Avg. Session Dur. (min)	7	7	6	6	6	6	5	4	4	2	3		5	--
Bounce Rate (%)	64	62	63	66	64	64	66	67	65	85	71		67	--

**Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Total Data Transferred (GB) 2025-2026**

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ^	201	275	237	143	121	165	215	238	22	--	--		180	1617
CdM	391	514	540	420	292	287	317	331	472	414	407		398	4383
Mariners	2240	2200	2460	2340	1910	1570	1860	1610	2770	2150	2300		2128	23410
Central *	14120	16200	6960	11000	12450	12190	15070	13910	15500	14730	19430		13778	151560
<b>Total</b>	<b>16951</b>	<b>19189</b>	<b>10197</b>	<b>13903</b>	<b>14773</b>	<b>14211</b>	<b>17462</b>	<b>16089</b>	<b>18764</b>	<b>17294</b>	<b>22137</b>		<b>16452</b>	<b>180970</b>

**Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Total Unique Patrons 2025-2026**

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ^	383	278	278	291	206	248	229	236	143	--	--		255	2292
CdM	557	527	695	526	330	407	356	321	411	423	426		453	4979
Mariners	1454	1432	2038	1749	1376	1292	1211	1341	1728	1630	1661		1537	16912
Central *	11130	10480	6307	8671	9493	9918	9773	9623	10984	12266	16092		10431	114737
<b>Total</b>	<b>13524</b>	<b>12717</b>	<b>9318</b>	<b>11237</b>	<b>11405</b>	<b>11865</b>	<b>11569</b>	<b>11521</b>	<b>13266</b>	<b>14319</b>	<b>18179</b>		<b>12629</b>	<b>138920</b>

**Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Average Number of Patrons Per Day 2025-2026**

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ^	30	21	20	19	15	18	18	19	9	--	--		19	169
CdM	32	34	42	32	22	22	23	23	27	29	26		28	312
Mariners	111	109	150	135	108	100	94	102	128	122	121		116	1280
Central *	746	672	361	518	566	612	584	644	672	746	871		636	6992
<b>Total</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>573</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>897</b>	<b>1018</b>		<b>796</b>	<b>8753</b>

**Today's Business Solutions Wireless (TBS): Average Usage Per Patron (MB) 2025-2026**

Location	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Average	Total
Balboa ^	536	1012	874	505	602	680	961	1010	160	--	--		704	6340
CdM	718	999	795	818	905	721	912	1030	1150	1003	977		912	10028
Mariners	1580	1570	1230	1370	1420	1250	1570	1230	1640	1350	1420		1421	15630
Central *	1300	1580	1130	1300	1340	1260	1580	1480	1440	1230	1240		1353	14880
<b>Total</b>	<b>4135</b>	<b>5161</b>	<b>4030</b>	<b>3992</b>	<b>4267</b>	<b>3911</b>	<b>5023</b>	<b>4750</b>	<b>4390</b>	<b>3583</b>	<b>3637</b>		<b>4262</b>	<b>46878</b>

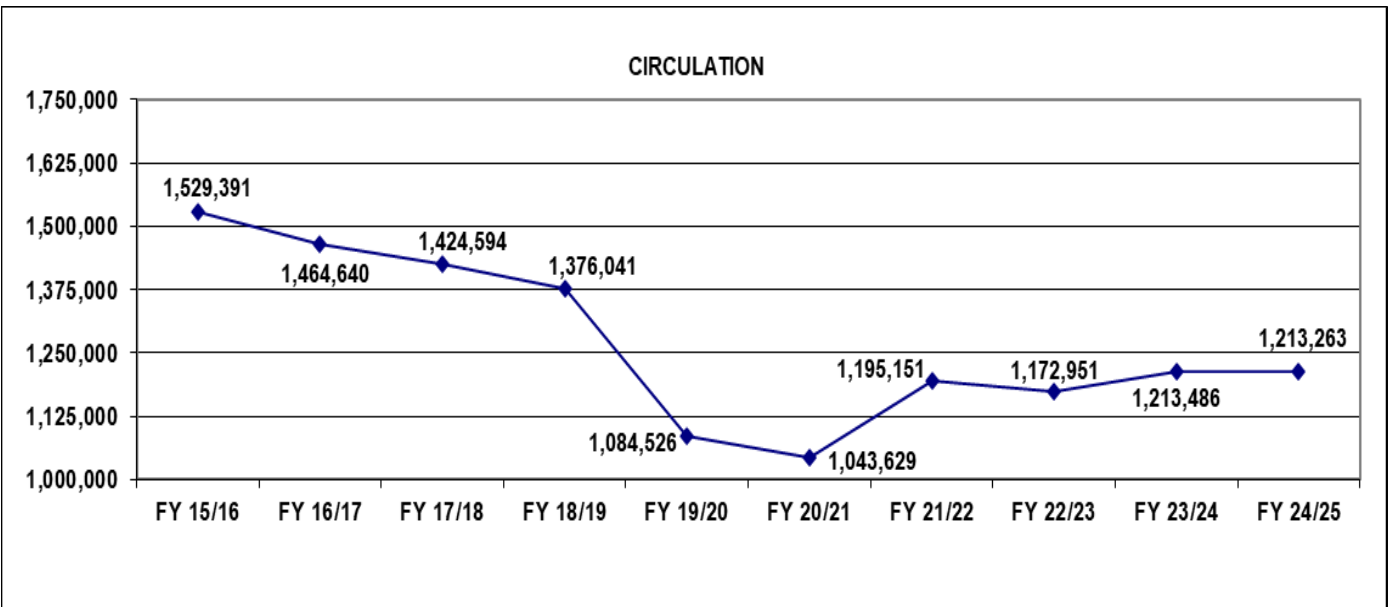
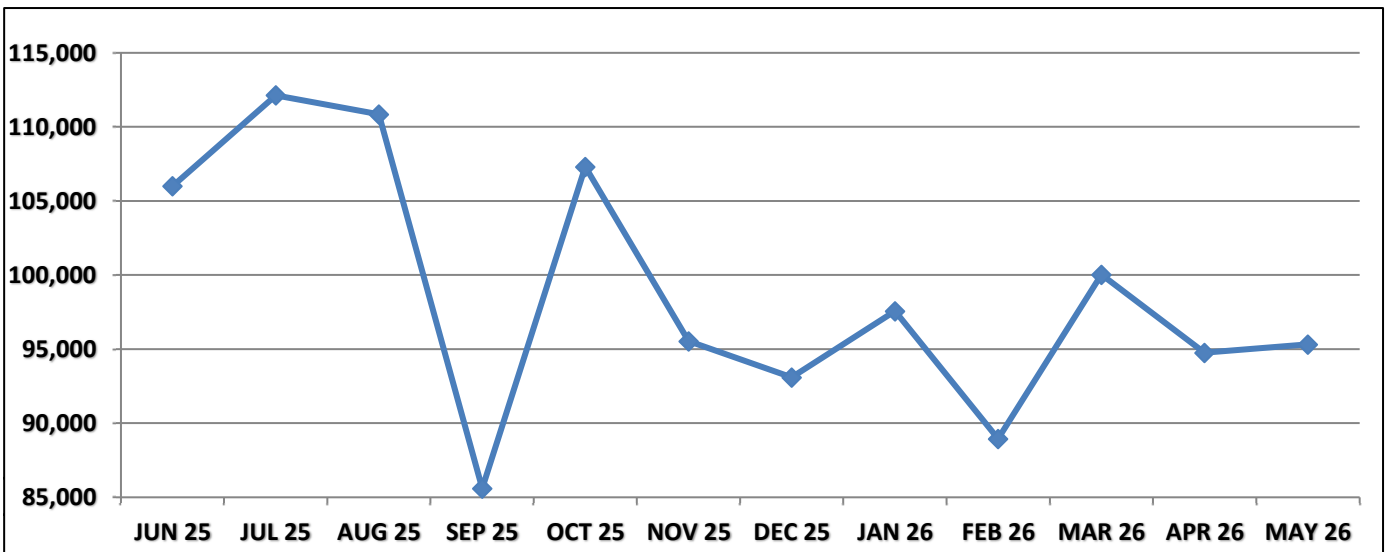
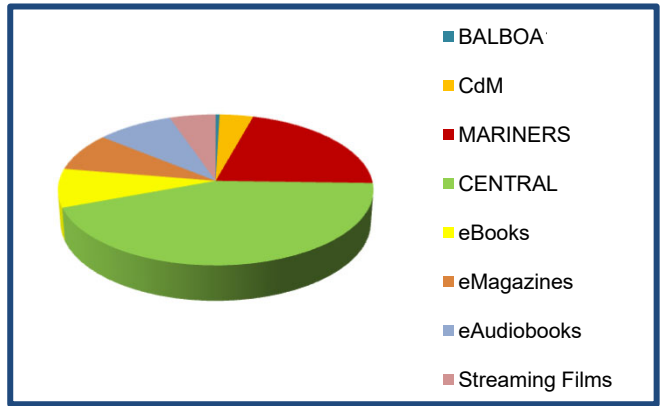
\* Central Library Closure: 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

^ Balboa Branch Library Closure: 03/01/2026-06/30/2026

' Library website intermittent maintenance period

## NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - MAY 2026 CIRCULATION

	MAY 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
BALBOA <sup>1</sup>	430	18,915	28,365
CdM	3,686	44,538	40,558
MARINERS	20,156	236,636	227,555
CENTRAL <sup>2</sup>	41,833	466,640	529,534
eBooks	7,872	89,012	90,097
eMagazines	7,846	85,426	66,808
eAudiobooks	8,428	89,436	84,340
Streaming Films	5,060	50,516	40,006
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95,311</b>	<b>1,081,119</b>	<b>1,107,263</b>

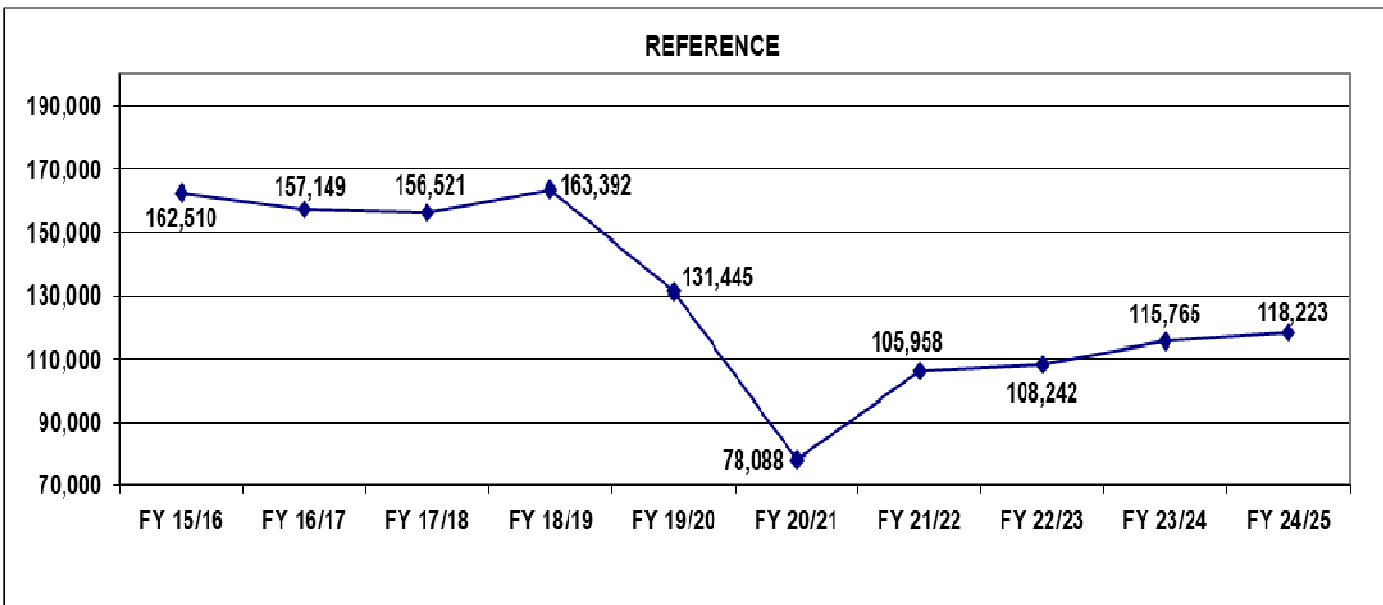
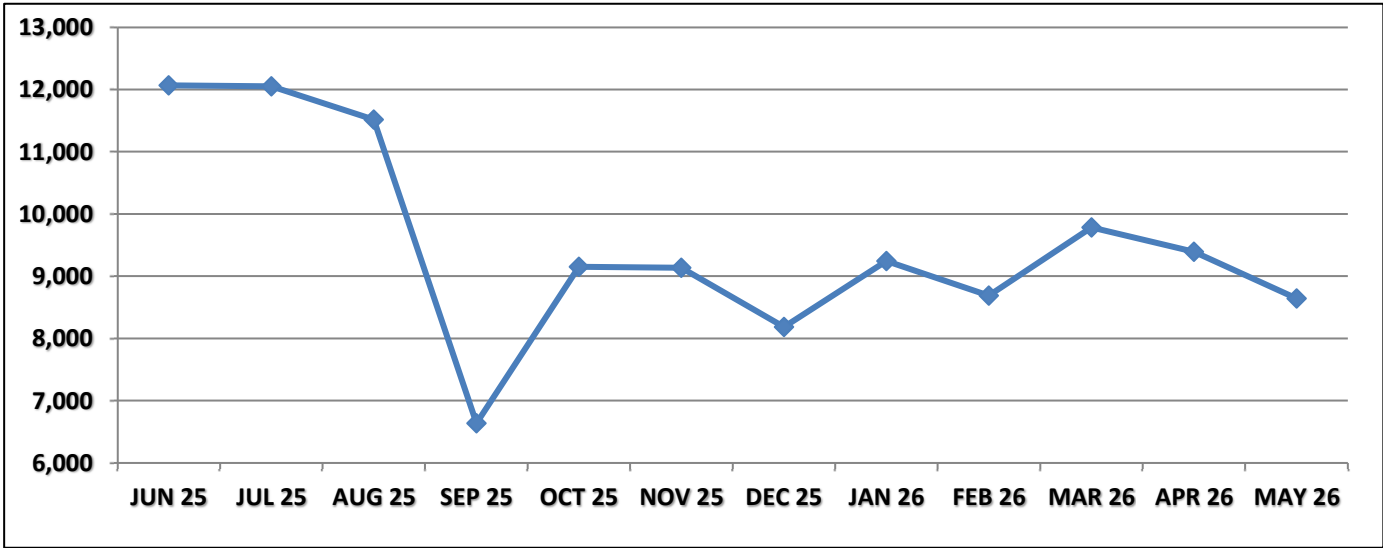
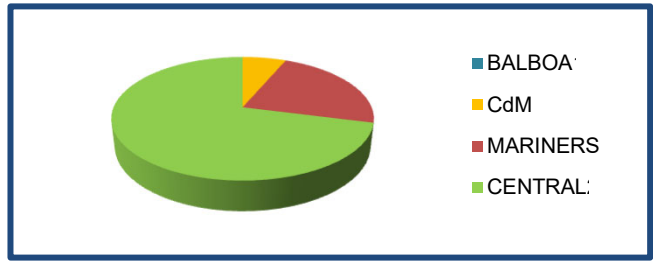


<sup>1</sup> Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | <sup>2</sup> Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

## NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - MAY 2026 REFERENCE

BALBOA<sup>1</sup>  
CdM  
MARINERS  
CENTRAL<sup>2</sup>  
  
TOTAL

MAY 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
0	3,180	4,280
554	8,062	7,914
1,951	21,031	21,826
6,138	70,147	72,134
<b>8,643</b>	<b>102,420</b>	<b>106,154</b>

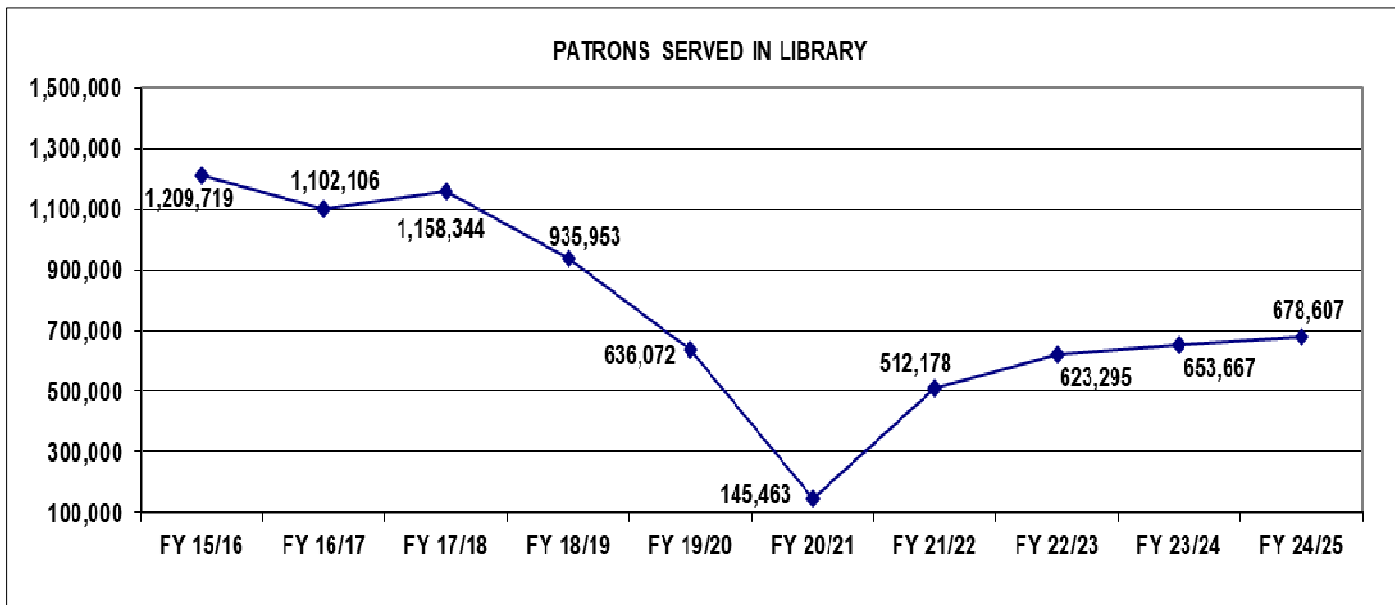
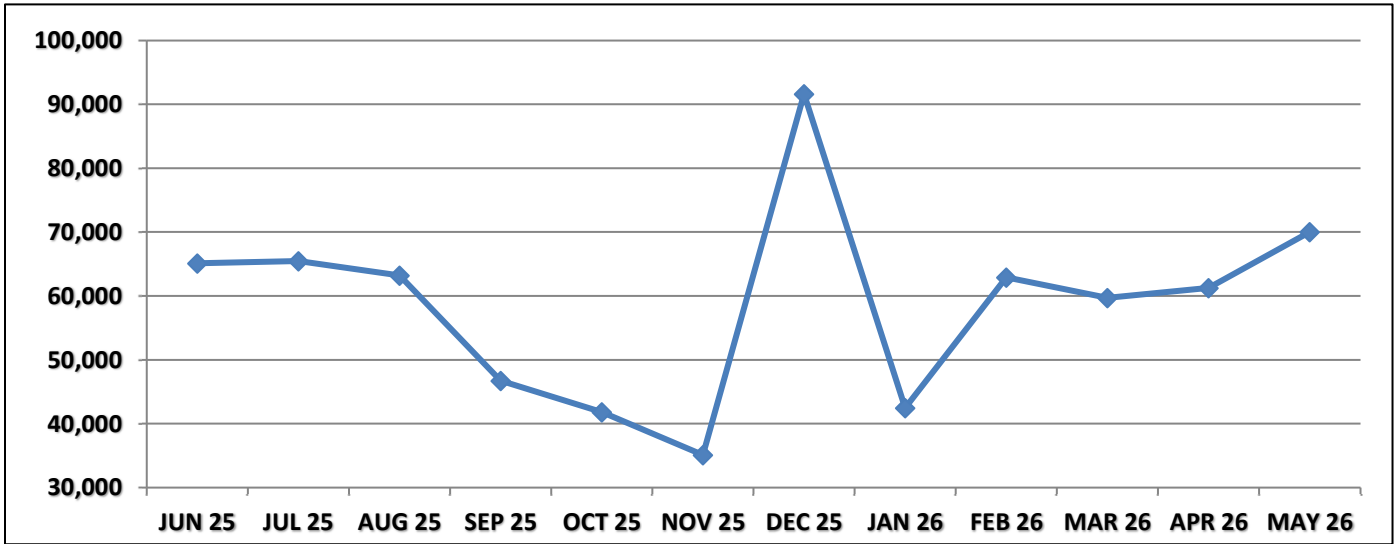
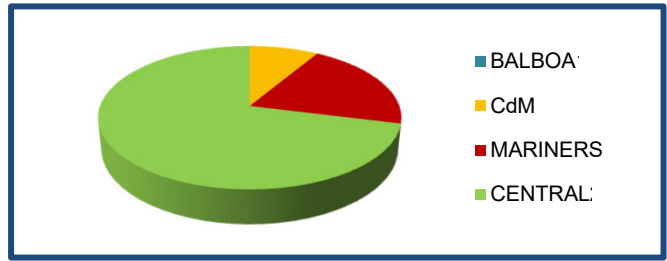


<sup>1</sup> Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | <sup>2</sup> Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

## NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - MAY 2026 PATRONS SERVED

BALBOA<sup>1</sup>  
CdM  
MARINERS  
CENTRAL<sup>2</sup>  
  
TOTAL

MAY 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
0	15,509	23,395
6,022	75,423	38,671
14,199	141,941	137,336
49,795	407,392	414,082
<b>70,016</b>	<b>640,265</b>	<b>613,484</b>



<sup>1</sup> Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026

<sup>2</sup> Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025

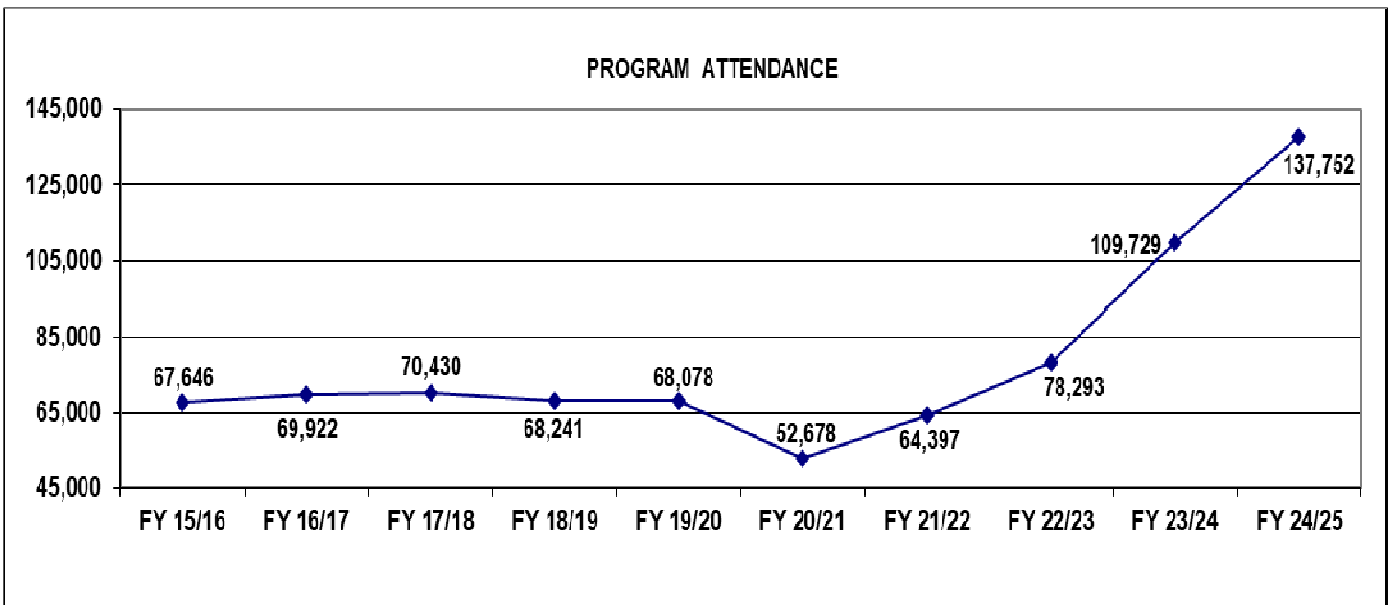
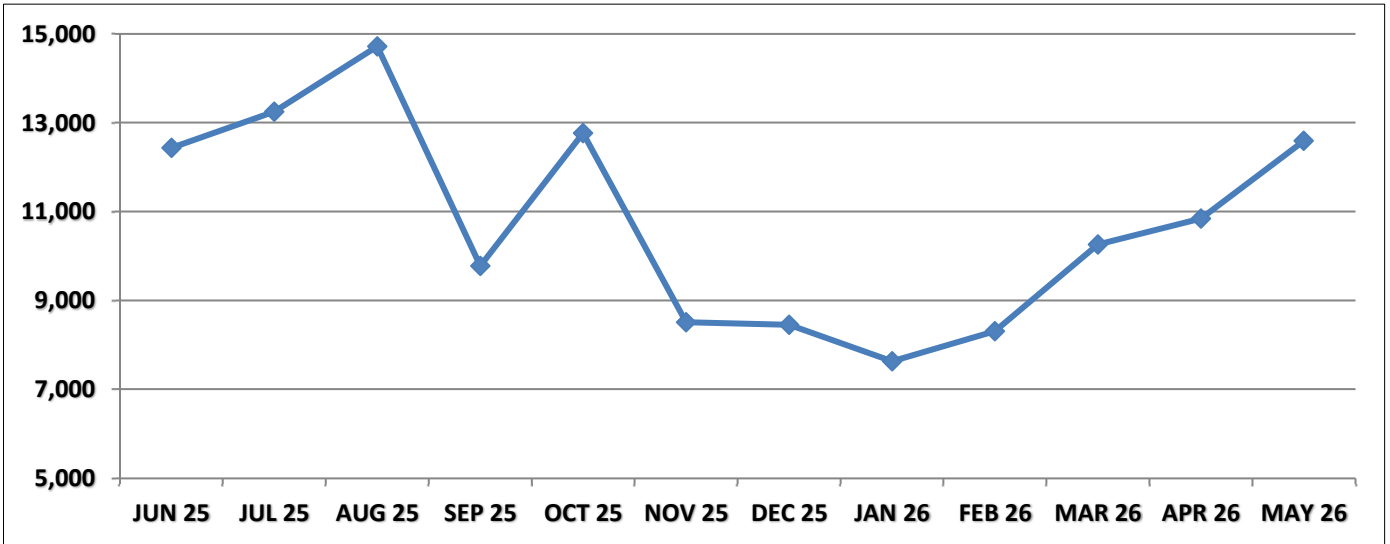
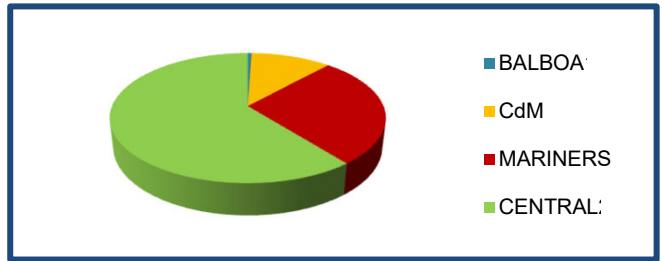
2<sup>nd</sup> floor entry gate malfunction 09/26/2025-12/9/2025; monthly total for December 2025 includes backlog

2<sup>nd</sup> floor entry gate malfunction 01/15/2026-01/31/2026; monthly total for February 2026 includes backlog

## NEWPORT BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY - MAY 2026 PROGRAM ATTENDANCE

BALBOA<sup>1</sup>  
CdM  
MARINERS  
CENTRAL<sup>2</sup>  
  
TOTAL

MAY 26	YTD 25/26	YTD 24/25
68	2,650	5,004
1,412	17,391	15,521
3,468	26,788	23,980
7,645	70,256	80,818
<b>12,593</b>	<b>117,085</b>	<b>125,323</b>



<sup>1</sup> Balboa: Closed 03/01/2026-06/30/2026 | <sup>2</sup> Central: Closed 09/15/2025-10/05/2025