



# CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

April 21, 2025  
Agenda Item No. 6

**TO:** BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

**FROM:** Library Services Department  
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**TITLE:** Media Lab Update

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## **OVERVIEW:**

The Newport Beach Public Library's Media Lab opened to the public in 2013 as part of the City Hall project and library expansion. The Media Lab equipment and software provide professional-grade services to meet the needs of the community. Staff continually look for ways to improve the patrons' experience by recommending new software and hardware and offering classes.

## **Media Lab**

The Media Lab, which is comprised of computer workstations and the Sound Lab, provides specialized software and equipment. The age range of the primary users is 15-35 years old. The Media Lab introduces a segment of the population to public libraries that are generally less inclined to rely on library services. The use of the Media Lab resources is free, thanks to generous funding from the Library Foundation of Newport Beach (Foundation). The Media Lab is consistently used by dedicated patrons for various reasons, including graphic design, photo editing, film and video editing, AutoCAD, VHS conversions, vinyl and cassette conversions, and archiving.

Children's staff are planning to offer another popular *Coding for Kids* program in April. Project Adult Literacy regularly uses the room to offer training and orientation for their volunteers on their America Learns software. Both programs are usually at capacity and offer a unique opportunity to expose new patrons to our Media Lab.

On April 12, 2025, staff hosted a Digital Saturday event. During the five-hour open house style event, staff were on hand to answer questions, demonstrate the equipment in the Media Lab, and provide instructions on using the Library's digital resources. Over 150 patrons stopped by and feedback was positive. Staff are planning another event in the Fall 2026.

## **Sound Lab**

The Sound Lab at the Newport Beach Public Library is usually booked up to two weeks in advance with patrons recording music, podcasts, conducting voice-over work, learning music, editing, and sharing projects. Thanks again to the generosity of the Foundation, staff have purchased specialized podcast and videocasting equipment and are in the process of retrofitting the Lab to accommodate these new items.

### **Tech Toys**

The Tech Toys collection of circulating equipment, launched in 2016, continues to circulate well. A larger cabinet was purchased recently to hold the variety of tech toys, which has grown to include home recording equipment, classic video consoles, hotspots, media converters, turntables, and GoPros.

### **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).