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**MAIN LIBRARY**

600 E. Mariposa Street, Altadena 91001

Phone: (626) 798-0833

Fax: (626) 798-0425

Monday - Tuesday  
10:00am - 9:00pm

Wednesday - Saturday  
10:00am - 6:00pm

Closed Sundays

**BOB LUCAS BRANCH LIBRARY**

2659 Lincoln Avenue, Altadena 91001

Phone: (626) 798-8338

Fax: (626) 798-3968

Monday - Tuesday  
10:00am - 6:00pm

Wednesday - Thursday  
10:00am - 8:00pm

Friday  
10:00am - 6:00pm  
Closed Weekends



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ira Bershatsky  
*President*

Adalila Zelada-Garcia  
*Secretary*

John D. McDonald

Gwendolyn McMullins

Armando Zambrano

## ADMINISTRATION

Mindy Kittay  
*District Director*

Ryan Roy  
*Public Services Director*

## BRINGING PEOPLE + IDEAS TOGETHER

For over 90 years, Altadena Library District has served the community of Altadena. Formed officially as an independent special district in December of 1926, it is locally controlled, supported by local property taxes and governed by a locally elected Board of Trustees responsive directly to the needs of the community.

Serving over 54,000 constituents with its Main Library and the Bob Lucas Memorial Branch Library, the Altadena Library District is dedicated to providing free and equal access to information, ideas, technology, and the joy of reading to educate and empower our diverse community.



### FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES PRESIDENT

## IRA BERSHATSKY

My name is Ira Bershatsky and I am the President of the Altadena Library Board of Trustees. I get asked who or what is the Board of Trustees and what do they do? There are five of us on the Board and we are elected or appointed officials subject to the California Brown Act Open Meetings Law. This means our fourth Monday of the month meetings are open to the public. The five members of the Board are myself who is the President, Adalila Zelada-Garcia who is the Secretary, and Trustees John McDonald, Gwendolyn McMullins, and Armando Zambrano. Our photos are on the west stairwell wall as you enter the main library from the lower parking lot.

What we do is set policies for the Altadena Library District. This can include hiring a Library District Director when that becomes necessary, providing an annual performance review of the District Director, the overall compensation plan for the staff, working on and approving the Strategic Plan and annual budget, approving expenditures over \$10,000, and working on and approving a facilities plan.

In general, what we do not do is programming (which we leave to the District's outstanding staff), employee hiring and review, and the day-to-day operations of the libraries.

A major success this year was our approval of the main library renovation which was celebrated at the 50th Anniversary Celebration. An event which was successfully planned and carried out by dedicated staff and volunteers. Feel free to say hello when you see any of the Board of Trustees members. Thank you.



### FROM THE DISTRICT DIRECTOR

## MINDY KITTAY

Friends, as I reflect on this past year, I am filled with sincere excitement and pride. We are pleased to share in this report the many achievements that make our Library a leader in our community and amongst libraries across the nation. This special library district has grown so much in a short amount of time, and we are superbly poised to launch into the future and reach even more of Altadena in meaningful ways.

We are proud to have grown into a library whose impact reaches past the boundaries of our physical locations, into and around the community it serves. Through tangible upgrades to our facilities in the Phase I Renovation, intentional and creative programming, and an overall shift in perspective to focus on our community's aspirations, the Altadena Library District is revolutionizing how it serves the community. Everyday, thousands of patrons, of all ages and stages, explore our comprehensive catalog of materials. Together, we gain new skills and knowledge at programs like sewing classes, story times, films screenings, and educational lectures. We convene, dance, and enjoy local talent at our free concerts. We connect with one another in meaningful discussions about community development. We never tire in our shared effort to consistently better Altadena.

As one of the longest standing institutions in our community, Altadena Library District has a special role, both independently and in partnership with key community organizations, in meeting the community's wants and needs. Through service and community leadership, it is our mission and privilege to bring people and ideas together in new and innovative ways. With the support of our talented team, volunteers, Board members, and our dedicated community, I look to the future with hope and great anticipation.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS AND “TURNING OUTWARD”

In 2017, the American Library Association launched its “Libraries Transforming Communities” initiative, urging libraries to shift their focus to their communities’ needs. Using the “turned outward” approach of the Harwood Institute of Public Innovation as a guide, the Altadena Library District brought Community Conversations to Altadena, revolutionizing the way the Library serves its constituents.



The role of the library is changing. Traditionally, libraries have been known to be inwardly focused institutions, warehouses of materials where at one point, and still in some parts of the world, books were literally chained to their shelves. As technology continues to claim a more prominent role in our lives, and as the structures of our cities and neighborhoods continue to develop, Altadena Library is modernizing the role of the library in the lives of its community members by “turning outward” to its community to use feedback to direct its strategic vision.

In early 2017, Altadena Library District invited residents to gather for intentional Community Conversations in homes, organizations, and businesses across Altadena, engaging in honest conversations about their visions for Altadena, the challenges our community faces, and the steps it will take to achieve those goals. Each conversation took place in a trusted neighbor’s living room, a local coffee shop, a place of worship, a school, or a community center, with Community Engagement Specialist Brian Biery facilitating these lively discussions.

Over the course of 23 Community Conversations, the Library directly engaged with upwards of 215 residents, including 17 Middle School students and teens and two groups of Spanish-speaking residents. The raw data captured at these discussions was shared with key stakeholders in local organization and government through a comprehensive report that identified the 11 priorities that emerged throughout the process, including:

- Maintain Altadena’s Unique Character (“Keep Altadena Funky”)
- Community Cohesion / Center / Volunteerism
- Commercial Business Hubs / Small Business Development
- Library as the Hub / Center of the Community
- Public Safety
- Neighborliness / Building Community
- Information Sharing / Communication
- Government / Elected Officials
- Mobility - Walking, Biking, Riding, Driving
- Civic Engagement / Advocacy / Activism
- Support PUSD Schools in Altadena

These priorities and the report were shared with the public at the Library’s Town Hall Meeting in April of 2017, where over a hundred community members gathered to explore the results, connect over common interests, and form priority action teams. Using the latest technology in group facilitation, participants were able to respond to guided questions in real-time, displaying their collective answers on the screen to spur discussion.

The results of this outreach were quickly put into effect at the Library. A committee of trained staff strategically implements the input of the original conversations and their ongoing efforts to actively solicit constituent feedback; programs and resources continue to develop that respond directly to the needs of Altadenans of all ages and stages.

## MAIN LIBRARY’S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

One of Altadena’s longest standing institutions, Altadena Library District has been serving its community in some capacity since the early 1900s. After many years of growth, the Main Library building on Mariposa was finally built in 1967, and for the past 50 years, the building has faithfully served its community. 50 years later, in 2017 the Altadena Library District celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with specially planned community building events that commemorated the many milestones the District has accomplished at its special Main Library building.

Originally designed by architect Boyd Georgi in the 1960s, the Main Library was a modern marvel at the time, featuring a classic mid-century style and seamless integration with its natural surroundings. Most importantly, it provided a place for its community to learn, convene, and connect. Shaded by the beautiful trees lining Christmas Tree Lane, the historical building has hosted thousands of visitors and houses a robust collection for the community to use; it has played a key role in bringing countless people and ideas together.

In honor of its special place in Altadena’s heart, a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee was formed to plan Growing Up ‘Dena, the Summer Reading Kick-Off, Grand Reopening, and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on June 10, 2017. Over 2,000 members of the community gathered for the all-day event, featuring talented performers on a main stage in the Library

## PHASE I RENOVATION

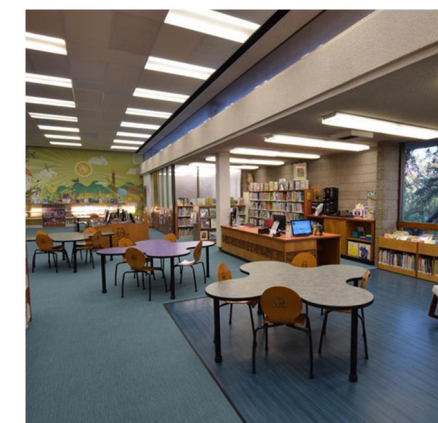
As part of the Library’s strategic plan, optimizing its facilities and providing a safe, clean, and modern space for its patrons are key priorities. Throughout the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, crucial updates were made to both the Main Library and the Bob Lucas Branch Library, refreshing the Altadena Library District’s worn buildings and fixtures. The Phase I Renovation launched an ongoing effort to bring the District’s historical buildings into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and to equip our facilities to best serve the community they represent.



Completed on time and under budget, the Phase I Renovation took care of many needed updates. During the brief Library closure, the Main Library was outfitted with state-of-the-art, earthquake-safe shelving and new entrance doors that are compliant with the American Disabilities Act, innovative new signage to assist with patron wayfinding, increased electrical outlets throughout the Library to improve the experience of mobile device users, and fresh carpeting and flooring funded by the Altadena Library Foundation for a total of \$75,000! Aesthetics throughout the building underwent marked improvements. Planters inside and outside were revitalized, and new life was breathed into all original wood pieces and fixtures with a thorough cleaning and polish. The addition of brightly colored, mid-century furniture pieces rounded out the changes, highlighting the building’s historical charm in the midst of the modern enhancements. Because of the extra space in the renovation budget, the District was able to expand the project to include additional maintenance and improvements during the closure, including the installation of a new security system and an entrance gate to the Main Library’s parking lot to keep the property secure during its closure.

Layout changes to the inside of the building have played a key role in expanding the Library’s services. Teens now have their own section, complete with a large screen for gaming, computers for studying and research, and young adult-specific materials for check out. Strategic placement of new dividers has also created the FabLab, a technological makerspace, coding center, and 3D Printing lab that hosts classes in the latest technologies, including Virtual Reality programming and more!

Teeming with happy patrons of all ages, our rejuvenated facilities are well on their way to reaching their full potential in service of their community.



The refreshed Main Library building sparkles and shines from every nook and cranny, better equipped than ever to serve the diverse needs of its community.

parking lot, activities for little ones in the Children’s section, delicious food trucks and stations, and the final Second Saturday concert to end the celebration on a high note!

Perhaps the most special moments of the event were the remarks from numerous elected officials, who lauded the District for its contribution to the growth of Altadena and who even went so far as to call it the “heartbeat” of our community. Senator Judy Chu, Senator Anthony Portantino, Assembly-member Chris Holden, California State Librarian Greg Lucas, and Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger all attended to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony, reflect on the importance of the Library, and share their excitement about the Library’s future.



Left: Supervisor Kathryn Barger honored the Library’s special anniversary; Right: Lead vocalist of Santana and Souleros Andy Vargas thrilled Growing Up ‘Dena crowds

# A TIMELINE OF ACHIEVEMENT



## ▼ JULY 2016 ▼

- Joined by 50 eco-minded patrons and Senator Mike Antonovich, the District dedicated its new **Water Conservation Demonstration Garden**.
- Local teens boogied for exciting prizes in the Library's **Teen Just Dance competition!**



## ▼ AUGUST 2016 ▼

- Photographer Ken Jones presented a slideshow of some of his 7,000 photographs he has taken across the country at **American Ghosts: Ghost Signs of the United States**. Because of the popularity of this subject matter and community demand, Ken returned later in the year to repeat this program!



## ▼ OCTOBER 2016 ▼

- A packed Community Room was fascinated by Miriam Quezada's presentation celebrating the life of **Frida Kahlo**, including art work, a lecture, and a film.
- Assemblymember Chris Holden, as part of the **First 5 California Official Reading Tour**, led a special story time for local kids in our Community Room.
- Over 300 local music lovers were thrilled by Upstream's reggae tunes at the first **Second Saturday** concert of the 2016-2017 season.
- The Bob Lucas Branch launched a **computer literacy training** for its English as a Second Language (ESL) volunteers.
- Creation of the **Small Meeting Room** off the Children's wing allowed us to offer our patrons the first quiet study or meeting space in the Main Library.



## ▼ NOVEMBER 2016 ▼

- The District received a grant of over \$18,200 that was applied to the purchase of the **state-of-the-art Nomad LT Q Multimedia Podium** for the new technology space called the FabLab.



## ▼ DECEMBER 2016 ▼

- Just in time for the holidays, the District **upgraded its Wifi** to 2G to improve the public's ability to seamlessly browse the Internet while in the Main Library and the Branch.
- Altadena Library was the headquarters for the 2016 **Open Studios Art Tour**, acting as host for the opening reception and a gallery for art lovers to visit during the tour.



## ▼ JANUARY 2017 ▼

- January 1<sup>st</sup> marked the beginning of the Main Library building's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year.
- Throughout Altadena, the Library engaged in meaningful **Community Conversations** with hundreds of residents working together to better our community (see page 4).



## ▼ FEBRUARY 2017 ▼

- The District continued "turning outward" by including two **Spanish Community Conversations** to reach our Spanish-speaking neighbors.
- Aspiring poets gathered to learn from poet Suzanne Lummis at the Library's **Poetry Workshop**.

## ▼ MARCH 2017 ▼

- An extensive **Phase I Renovation** launched at the Main Library (see page 5), optimizing the beloved and worn building for future use. During the brief closure, Library staff engaged in **professional trainings and seminars** to also optimize the team's skills and customer service capacity.



## ▼ APRIL 2017 ▼

- In culmination of the Community Conversations initiative, over 125 residents gathered for the Library's **Town Hall Meeting** to discuss the results of the Conversations and to form action teams around the identified priorities.
- The annual **Poetry & Cookies** event took place at the Main Library, launching the publication of the 2016 Altadena Poetry Review Anthology, featuring talented poets from across Southern California.



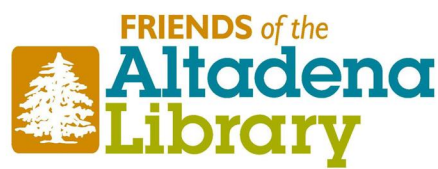
## ▼ MAY 2017 ▼

- The Main Library reopened to the public at the conclusion of the Phase I Renovation!
- Residents from across the community attended the **Friends of the Altadena Library Annual Booksale**.



## ▼ JUNE 2017 ▼

- Thousands of Altadenans gathered at **Growing Up 'Dena**, a celebration of the Main Library's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Grand Reopening, and Summer Reading Kick-Off.
- Local author and scholar Jervey Tervalon provided a fascinating keynote address at the **Friends of the Altadena Library's annual meeting**.



Established in 1959, the Friends of the Altadena Library is an organization committed to the support of the Altadena Library District and its programs and services. The purpose of the Friends is to stimulate public interest in the Library, assist with funding to purchase library materials, and to support cultural and educational programs at the Altadena Library.

An organization operated entirely by volunteers devoted to their Library, the Friends run the Friends of the Altadena Library Bookstore inside the main entrance of the Main Library and put on an annual Book Sale. All proceeds provide books and materials, support Children's and Young Adult programs, and support the creation of new educational, informative programs for all ages. Recent donations include new furniture, computer equipment and books for both branches in the District.

## LEADERSHIP

Mark Mariscal  
President

Barbara Freburg  
Vice President

Christine Meadows  
Treasurer

Marne Brown  
Recording Secretary

Jannette Allen  
Corresponding Secretary

## FROM F.O.A.L. PRESIDENT MARK MARISCAL

The legacy of the Friends of the Altadena Library is one marked by great generosity and service of its community. I follow in the footsteps of former President Marne Brown who for more than 7 years as President helped increase the annual giving to the District through careful management of the dollars that you all helped raise and donated. Reflecting on the impact the Friends has made since its formation in 1959, my enthusiasm for F.O.A.L. and our important work continues to grow. I look forward to our promising future working together to support the significant institution that is Altadena Library District!

### BECOME A FRIEND

You'll receive special invitation to the Friends "Pre-Sale" Used Book Sale, free events, and the satisfaction of helping to support your local libraries.

### VISIT THE BOOKSTORE

Your purchases from the Friends' Bookstore at the Main Library directly supports the Friends and their ability to, in turn, support Library programs.

### MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION

Your tax-deductible donation to the Friends helps support the annual Poetry & Cookies program, musical programs, author lectures, and more!

Learn more about ways to get involved and how to support the Friends of the Altadena Library online at [www.altadenalibrary.org/friends-library](http://www.altadenalibrary.org/friends-library).



For just under a decade, the mission of the Altadena Library Foundation has been crucial to the District's growth - to support and enrich the facilities, resources and services of the Altadena Library District through fundraising and advocacy in the community.

With assets exceeding \$500,000, the Altadena Library Foundation provides opportunities for involvement that are altruistic, patriotic, and community-building. The raising and allocation of key funds touch the lives of thousands of community members in Altadena and beyond. With an actively engaged Board of Trustees, talented staff, and enthusiastic patrons, the District and its Foundation are in the best possible position to take their impact to the next level.

Just as any organization has its challenges, so does the Altadena Library District. With limited capital funds and facilities space, the District's goals and the amount of people it can reach are limited. The Foundation hopes to expand the District's capacity for growth in coming years by raising funds to address the strategic objectives of sustainable funding, community outreach, facilities, lifelong learning, and technology.

### NETWORK IN THE COMMUNITY

The community-building work of the Foundation requires support of just that - the community! Help advocate on behalf of the Foundation in support of its special projects.

### BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BOARD

This volunteer position supports programs and funding for capital projects implemented by the District through planning and financial and legal oversight.

### MAKE A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

Your tax-deductible donation to the Foundation is altruistic and community-minded. Your gift makes a positive impact on the District and Altadena!

## LEADERSHIP

Cynthia Carmona *President*

Mark Mariscal *Secretary*

Susan Bowen *Treasurer*

Cushon Bell

Mindy Kittay *ex officio*

Yuni LaFontaine

Gwendolyn McMullins

Lola Warlick-Bryant

## SUPPORTERS 2016-2017

The 2016-2017 Supporters list includes generous contributions, both financial and in-kind, from individuals and organizations during the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

### ALTADENA LIBRARY FOUNDATION DONORS

Altadena Rotary Club  
Amazon Smiles  
Louise Bartholomew  
Michelle Bell  
Yvonne & Joe E. Brown  
Ruby Bryant  
Joyce E. & Willie A. Bush  
Cesarito Grantor  
County of Los Angeles  
Fidelity Charity Gift Fund  
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Robert J. Hallwachs  
Janet M. Edge Trust  
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The Kumanchik Family  
Kathleen J. Mahaffey  
Gwendolyn & Tommy McMullins  
Mijares Mexican Restaurant, Inc.  
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Pasadena Playhouse  
W. & D. Turner  
Vibrant Seniors Events LLC  
Brenda E. Wells

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Gretchen Anderson  
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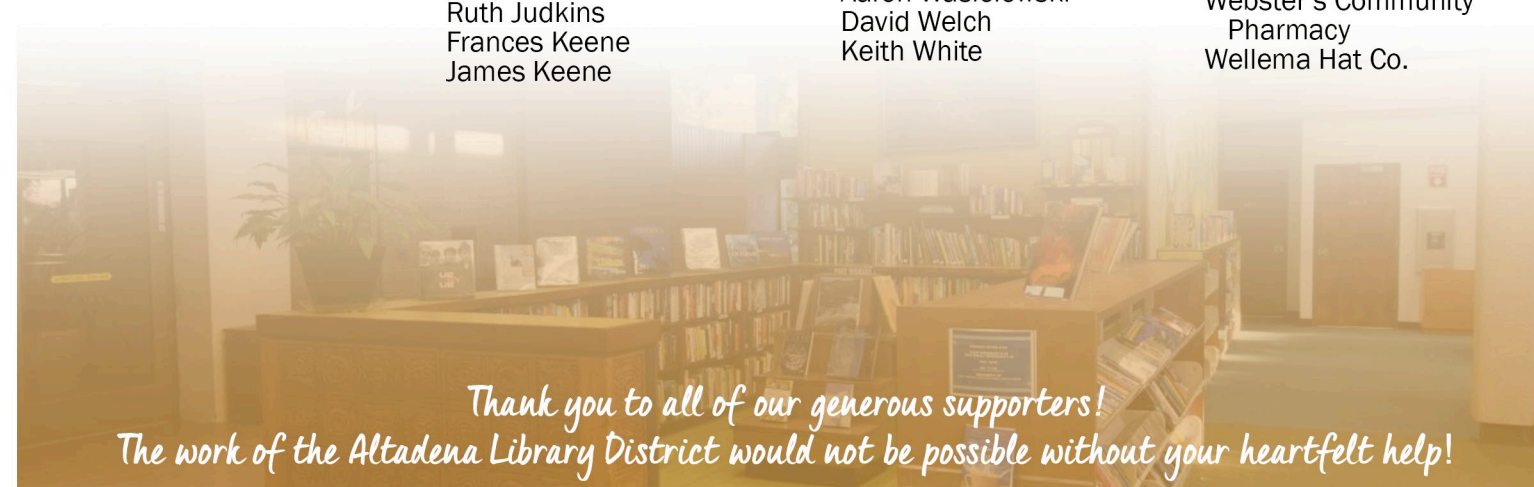
### GROWING UP 'DENA SUPPORTERS

#### Sponsors of \$2,000+

Altadena Library Foundation  
Altadena Rotary Club  
Armstrong Garden Centers  
Bohland & Kumanchik Families  
Friends of the Altadena Library  
KIND Snacks

#### Donors and Passport Participants

24 Hour Fitness  
ALDI  
Altadena Ale & Wine House  
Altadena Farmer's Market  
Altadena Town & Country  
Café de Leche  
Coffee Gallery  
Daz-E Shop  
El Patron  
Hoopla! An Emporium of Good Things  
JRC Wrought Iron  
McGinty's Gallery at the End of the World  
Meredith M  
MonteCedro  
Nancy's Greek Café  
Oh Happy Days Natural Food Grocery & Café  
Open Road Bicycle Shop  
Park Bench Grill  
Pasadena Sandwich Company  
Pizza of Venice  
Rhythms of the Village  
Sidewalk Café  
Steve's Pets  
Super King Market  
Tacos Poncitlan  
The Bunny Museum  
Trader Joe's  
Webster's Community Pharmacy  
Wellema Hat Co.



Thank you to all of our generous supporters!  
The work of the Altadena Library District would not be possible without your heartfelt help!

## BY THE NUMBERS

CIRCULATION

188,375

VISITORS

188,850

NEW LIBRARY CARDS ISSUED

2,664

HOLDS PLACED ON ITEMS

4,196

COMPUTER USAGE

38,582

PROGRAMS OFFERED

420

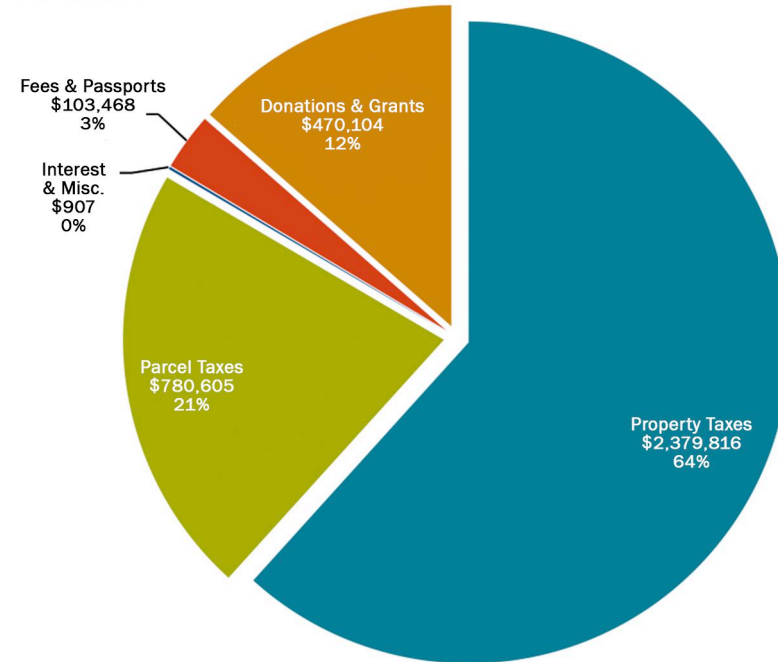
WITH

13,387

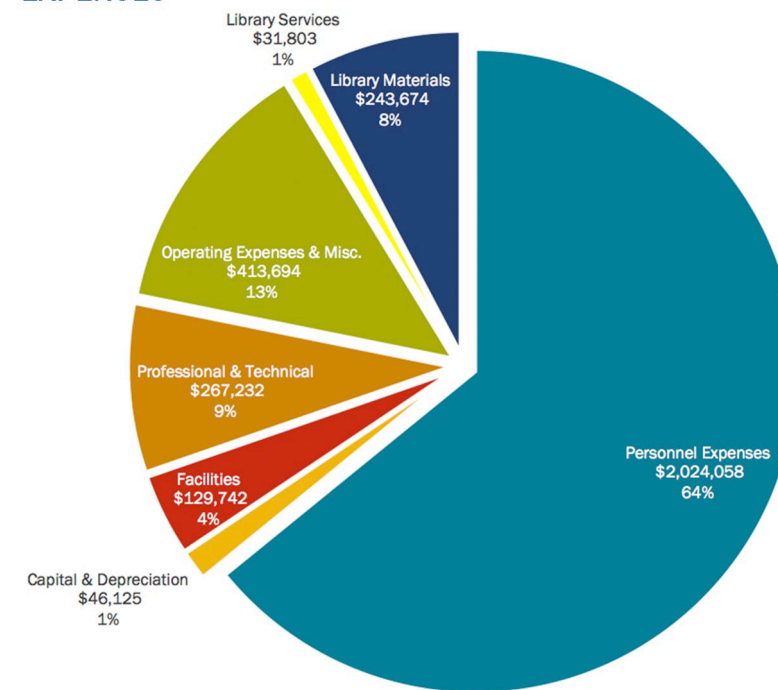
ATTENDEES

## 2016-2017 FINANCIALS

### REVENUE



### EXPENSES



### Financial Highlights:

- The District ended the fiscal year with approximately \$2.9 million in cash and investments.
- Property and parcel taxes were 0.51% higher than the previous year.
- Thanks to the District's ability to keep expenditures under budget even through the Phase I Renovation, it was not necessary to transfer in funds from the District's Reserves.



## WE ARE ALTADENA

Another year passes, and our important work continues. Every program, resource, and service we provide has the community of Altadena in mind. Just as Altadena's beauty is reflective of the diversity of our community, so is the joy and hope found in our Library District. From the laughter that rings through the air in our Children's section, to the quiet flipping of pages in our Main Library and Branch, to the melodies and cheers that emanate from the Main Library during our Second Saturday concerts, there is joy, adventure, and hope to be found in our special libraries, where people of all different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds can gather in peace and explore ideas together.

As we look ahead to a new year and delve into the planning of the year's offerings, we want you to know that **we hear you**. We want to expand the rich dialogue we opened this past year and continue to let your voices be heard. Already, important initiatives developed in direct response to your feedback are in motion.

Let's continue our communication -- email [hello@altadenalibrary.org](mailto:hello@altadenalibrary.org) with any questions, comments, and ideas! As always, visit [www.altadenalibrary.org](http://www.altadenalibrary.org) to stay updated on the Altadena Library District's upcoming events, programs, and activities!

