



OC Public Libraries

Annual Report 2024



Orange County, CA
Public Libraries
Open Doors. Free Access. Community.

A Library Card is Your Key to Endless Opportunities

OC Public Libraries inspires our communities to explore, learn, and thrive with access to books, dynamic programs, and essential digital services.



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A Letter from the County Librarian

I am delighted to present the 2024 Annual Report for OC Public Libraries, highlighting our enduring commitment to empowering, enriching, and connecting the diverse communities we serve.

At our core, OC Public Libraries is rooted in the love of books and the transformative power of reading. Books remain central to what we do—they spark curiosity, expand horizons, and provide pathways to knowledge. Yet, they are also just the beginning. In 2024, we continued to grow and evolve, ensuring that our libraries remain vibrant spaces where stories take many forms and opportunities flourish.

As you will see throughout this report, our libraries are not just places to borrow books—they are dynamic community hubs that offer a wealth of resources, programs, and services to inspire curiosity, promote lifelong learning, and foster meaningful connections. From early learning programs that set children on the path to success, to after-school initiatives that help students thrive, to the innovative Library of Things that encourages sustainability and creativity, OC Public Libraries goes beyond the book to meet the needs of our diverse community.

In 2024, we saw a remarkable response from our patrons, underscoring the relevance of our mission. With over 3.5 million visits, 9.5 million items borrowed, and more than 670,000 program attendees, the impact of our services is evident. Our libraries continue to provide access to over 1.7 million materials in 13 languages, alongside an extensive collection of digital resources, ensuring that everyone has the tools they need to learn, grow, and connect.

As we prepare for 2025, we remain dedicated to enhancing the library experience for all. Whether through revitalized spaces, new partnerships, or innovative programs, we are committed to addressing the evolving needs of our community while staying true to the heart of our mission. Our libraries will continue to be welcoming and inclusive spaces where books are cherished, and where learning, creativity, and community come to life.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to serving you in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



JULIE E. QUILLMAN



Board of Supervisors



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Mission

Empower and Enrich
our Communities

Vision

Open Doors, Free
Access, Community

Books are Just the Beginning

OC Public Libraries serves over 1.6 million residents through 32 branches, a bookmobile, and a dedicated Orangewood Children's Home branch—proving every day that libraries are more essential than ever. While books and materials are at our core, we go beyond the page with programs that inspire curiosity and connection across all stages of life. With 1.7 million materials in 13 languages and extensive digital resources, libraries are thriving hubs of learning and community—enriching lives, strengthening connections, and making a big impact. Yes, people still use libraries—in more ways than ever before.



3.5 million
patrons visited
our libraries



88 thousand
new library
cards issued



9.6 million
items borrowed



2.6 million
eResources used



718 thousand
patrons attended programs

Programs and Initiatives

Early Learning Programs

Early learning programs ignite a love for reading while fostering creativity and skill development through engaging and enriching experiences for children and their families. Storytimes introduce young readers to the joy of books while strengthening family bonds with interactive crafts and activities that build cognitive and motor skills. Stay and Play encourages learning through play, sparking curiosity and independence, while connecting parents and caregivers in a supportive network.

The award-winning **Kindergarten Readiness Initiative**, highlighted by the popular **Kinderpalooza** event, equips young learners for school with resources like parent instruction for school readiness skills, educational toys, read-along books, and bilingual computer stations—making early learning engaging, fun, and accessible both at the library and at home. These programs empower children with the tools for lifelong success while fostering strong family and community connections.



After-School Programs & Homework Help

After-school programs offer children a safe, supportive space to connect with peers while engaging in creative and educational activities, including book clubs, crafts, and STEAM projects. In addition, our Homework Help services provide students with free access to online tutoring in subjects like math, reading, writing, science, and social studies, ensuring they have the support they need to succeed academically. Together, these programs foster creativity, learning, and social development, helping children thrive both inside and outside the classroom.



Year-Round Reading Programs

OC Public Libraries is dedicated to fostering literacy, learning, and community connections throughout the year with programs designed to motivate readers of all ages.

Summer at the Library remains a cherished tradition, offering families a fun and educational escape while combating the “summer slide.” Through storytimes, crafts, author visits, performances, and interactions with beloved book characters, the program inspires a love of reading and learning. The **Summer Reading Challenge** engages kids and teens with reading logs, prizes, and exciting events, empowering them to dream big and see themselves represented in literature. In 2024, OCPL served over 18,000 meals through Lunch at the Library, promoting health and wellness while connecting families to vital resources.

Beyond summer, OCPL offers **year-round reading initiatives** to engage both reluctant and avid readers. Seasonal programs and incentive-based challenges make reading a fun, rewarding experience for all, building confidence and curiosity across all age groups. These programs are more than just activities—they’re a celebration of books, learning, and the power of community connection.

Empowering Teens

We are dedicated to meeting the unique needs of teens, providing dynamic programs and spaces where they can learn, grow, and connect.

Through **Teen Advisory Boards** and **Teen Volunteer Programs**, teens develop critical life skills like leadership, collaboration, and problem-solving. These opportunities empower them to make a difference in their communities while offering a welcoming space to connect with friends, work on homework, and explore activities tailored to their interests.



TeenFest offered a dynamic mix of experiences that combined preparation for the future with opportunities for fun and connection. Teens participated in career-advice sessions, creative workshops, author talks, and financial literacy classes, alongside engaging programs like *Adulting 101* covering topics from voting to life skills. TeenFest created an exciting and supportive environment where teens could learn, grow, and enjoy themselves.

At **Comic Orange**, teens immersed themselves in the world of graphic novels, animation, and cosplay. This vibrant festival featured drawing workshops, career panels, escape rooms, life-sized games, and an artist alley highlighting local talent. Teens had the unique chance to interact with authors, creators, and fellow fans, sparking creativity and building community.



Supporting Adults and Seniors

OC Public Libraries is committed to empowering adults and seniors with a wide range of cultural, creative, and educational programs that foster lifelong learning and reduce social isolation. From engaging cultural events and author visits to cooking classes focused on healthy eating, our dynamic offerings provide opportunities for personal growth, skill-building, and socializing.



These programs not only enhance cognitive health and well-being, but they also create vibrant spaces for adults and seniors to connect, build relationships, and engage with others across generations. Through activities like technology classes, book clubs, creative workshops, and cultural appreciation events, we ensure that every program contributes to reducing isolation, promoting health, and strengthening community bonds throughout the year. Whether it's learning new skills, enjoying a meal together, or simply connecting with others, the library is a vital space for growth and connection.

Nurturing Literacy, Inspiring Learning

OC READ & Families for Literacy

OC Public Libraries is committed to empowering adults and families through programs that enhance literacy and create opportunities for personal and academic growth. **OC READ** offers essential tutoring for English-speaking adults looking to improve their reading and writing skills. By providing personalized support, this program helps learners gain the confidence to achieve personal, family, and career milestones—whether it's reading to their children, understanding the newspaper, or securing employment.

Families for Literacy works to break the cycle of intergenerational low literacy by empowering parents to become their child's first teacher.



Through one-on-one tutoring and workshops, parents gain the tools to actively support their child's education, from communicating with teachers to understanding school reports and navigating school registration. Together, these programs foster a love of learning that benefits both adults and children, ensuring success for the whole family and setting a foundation for lifelong achievement.

Career Online High School

Since its inception, Career Online High School has empowered 71 adults to earn an accredited high school diploma, with many graduates reporting career advancements or continuing their education in higher learning. This life-changing program offers flexible, online learning, supported by personalized coaching and instruction to ensure each student's success. Graduates not only gain valuable career skills, but many also use their achievement as motivation to encourage their children to pursue their own educational goals. Career Online High School is not just about earning a diploma—it's about transforming lives and creating new opportunities for their future success.



Books at the Core: The Heart of Our Mission

Books are more than just stories—they are the heart of everything we do. They connect us across generations, cultures, and experiences, fueling our passion for creating accessible, engaging programs that bring people together. In 2024, this passion was evident in the diverse slate of authors we hosted, from bestselling favorites to emerging voices. These events offered Orange County residents rare opportunities to engage directly with the minds behind the books that inspire, challenge, and entertain.

Each visit deepened our community's connection to literature, reaffirming our commitment to making books and authors accessible to all. Whether through author talks, book signings, or cultural discussions, we saw firsthand how stories shape, inspire, and unite us. This belief—that stories have the power to connect—is the foundation of everything we do and guides our mission to enrich lives through the magic of books.

A Slice of Literary Orange

As part of this mission, OCPL's author series takes our commitment to literature a step further. This year-long initiative brings world-class authors to communities across the county, offering free events designed to celebrate literacy and ignite a passion for reading. Attendees engage with a diverse lineup of authors, learn about the writing process, and have books signed—all at no cost.

The series provides a unique opportunity for readers to connect directly with the authors who have inspired and entertained them. Attendees are excited to interact with authors and share the experience with fellow book lovers. By offering these enriching experiences, we ensure that the magic of literature is accessible to everyone, deepening our community's connection to the world of books.



A Slice of Literary Orange Guest Authors

Julie Abe	Jasmine Guillory	Jocelyn Ramirez
Mitch Albom	Abby Jimenez	Derick Santiago
C.J. Box	Jessica Knoll	Peng Shepherd
Sandra Brown	Bricia Lopez	Neal Shusterman
Sara Calvosa	Jenny Martinez	Daniel Silva
Roy Choi	James McBride	Jet Tila
Tori Dunlap	Brad Meltzer	Henry Winkler
Michael Finkel	Silvia Moreno-Garcia	Don Winslow
A.J. Finn	Tommy Orange	Jacqueline Woodson
Jefferson Fisher	Christopher Paolini	Stephanie Wrobel
George Geary	Julia Quinn	Nicola Yoon



One County, One Book: Connecting Through Stories

This year, our *One County, One Book* initiative brought the community together through the shared experience of reading Tommy Orange's *Wandering Stars*. Readers of all ages explored the novel's powerful themes of identity, culture, and belonging through a wide array of events, including author talks, cultural presentations, film screenings, storytimes, and book discussions. The program's highlight was a memorable visit from Tommy Orange himself, offering attendees a rare opportunity to connect with the award-winning author and gain deeper insight into his work. By sparking meaningful conversations and encouraging exploration of diverse perspectives, *One County, One Book* fostered connection and understanding across our community, reinforcing the unifying power of stories.

Building Connections Through Library Spaces

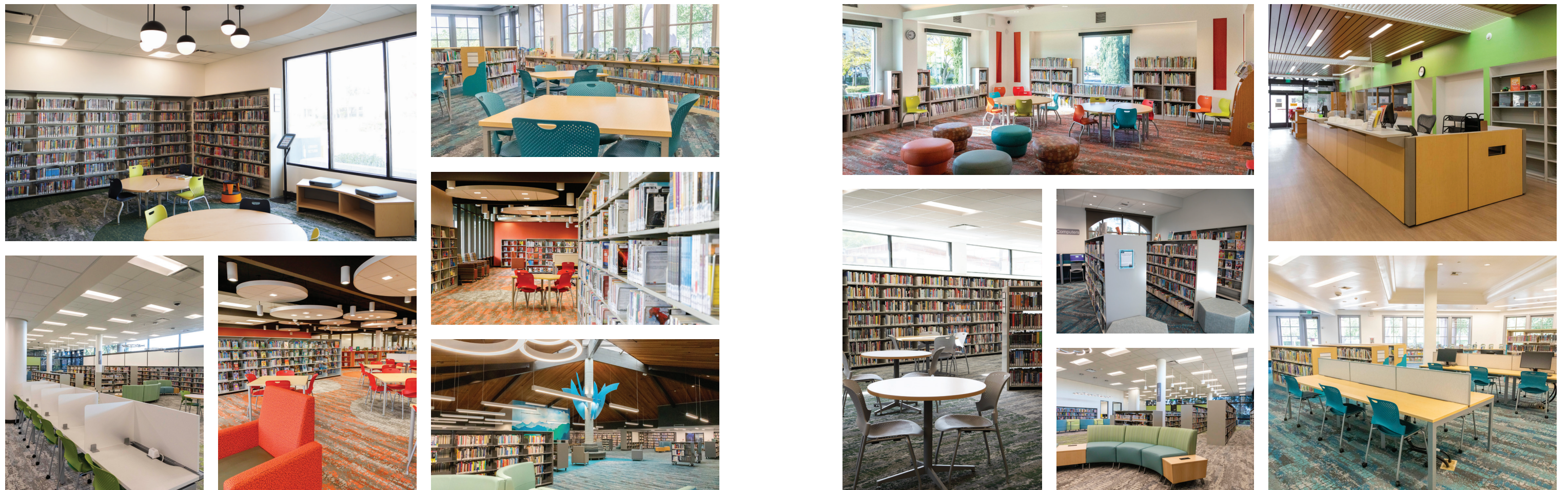
OC Public Libraries continues to evolve its physical spaces to better serve the needs of our community. Our libraries are not just places to borrow books—they are dynamic hubs where learning, creativity, and connection thrive.

Whether through quiet study areas, collaborative workspaces, or vibrant program rooms, OCPL is committed to providing environments that inspire exploration, foster collaboration, and support personal growth.

Our libraries are designed to adapt to the ever-changing needs of our patrons, offering renewed spaces for book collections, and vibrant areas for storytimes, reading, and studying and homework.

Over the past few years, our Capital Improvement Program has revitalized libraries like El Toro, Rancho Santa Margarita, Westminster, Cypress, Brea, and San Juan Capistrano. In addition, ongoing renovations in Aliso Viejo, Dana Point, La Habra, Garden Grove, and Stanton are set to transform even more libraries. The recent revitalization of the Los Alamitos-Rossmoor Library is an example of the renovation program, featuring energy-efficient upgrades, ADA-compliant enhancements, and redesigned areas such as a new teen space and reservable study rooms. These improvements make our libraries more accessible, inviting, and functional for all visitors.

We will continue revitalization work, ensuring that our libraries remain vibrant centers of learning, creativity, and community. By combining innovative services, engaging programs, and modernized environments, we reaffirm our commitment to making OC Public Libraries the heart of community—where everyone can gather, learn, and thrive.



Stronger Communities Through Partnerships

At OC Public Libraries, we believe in the power of strong partnerships to help us expand our services and better serve our community. In 2024, we were proud to receive grants from esteemed organizations such as the Samueli Foundation, California Humanities, and the California State Library. These investments allow us to deepen our commitment to the community and continue our mission of connecting individuals to essential resources, services, and opportunities. These partnerships are integral to ensuring that OCPL remains a vital, accessible resource for all.

Our collaborations extend beyond grant funding. We actively work with a wide network of local organizations, nonprofits, and government agencies, including school districts, city recreation departments, and law enforcement. These relationships enhance our ability to deliver a diverse range of programs and services, creating a stronger, more resilient community.



Library of Things: Resource Sharing

While books remain central to our mission, we continue to evolve to meet the diverse needs of our community. Embracing sustainability and the principles of a sharing economy, OCPL is proud to introduce its newest initiative: the Library of Things.

The Library of Things (LOT) is an innovative initiative that promotes sharing, reusing, and discovering new skills or hobbies. By offering a wide range of items for borrowing—such as musical instruments, sewing machines, telescopes, outdoor games, and themed backpacks—LOT empowers the community to explore, create, and try new experiences without the commitment of purchasing.

This initiative not only makes valuable resources more accessible, but it also promotes sustainability by encouraging borrowing over buying, helping reduce waste, and fostering a culture of shared community ownership. As the Library of Things continues to grow, it will offer even more opportunities for learning, personal growth, and connection, further strengthening OCPL's commitment to resource sharing, sustainability, and community well-being.

Thank You for Your Support

Your generosity and commitment to our mission have been instrumental in making a positive difference in the lives of so many. We are deeply grateful for the partnerships, contributions, and support from the Samueli Foundation, the Friends of the Library groups, the OCPL Foundation and our dedicated community members who believe in our mission and contribute directly through our website

Support OC Public Libraries at ocpl.org

Together, we continue to serve, inspire, and build a brighter future for all.

2025 Goals

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting and promoting books and reading, fostering connections, and enriching lives. Through innovative and inclusive programs, dynamic spaces for learning and exploration, and the preservation of Orange County's rich history, we aim to create lasting impact. Our focus on expert guidance, carefully curated collections, and free resources will continue to meet the evolving needs of our diverse community, ensuring that we remain a vital and accessible resource for all.

- Create meaningful experiences through innovative and inclusive programs, services, and outreach.
- Provide sustainable and welcoming spaces for the community to connect, explore and learn.
- Collect, preserve and share Orange County's heritage through oral histories, photos and documents.
- Provide expert assistance, curated collections, and resources free of charge to our communities.



Branch Locations

ALISO VIEJO

1 Journey
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
ocpl.alisoviejo@occr.ocgov.com
(949) 360-1730

BREA

1 Civic Center Cir.
Brea, CA 92821
ocpl.brea@occr.ocgov.com
(714) 671-1722

COSTA MESA/DONALD DUNGAN

1855 Park Ave.
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
ocpl.costamesadd@occr.ocgov.com
(949) 646-8845

COSTA MESA/MESA VERDE

2969 Mesa Verde Dr.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626
ocpl.mesaverde@occr.ocgov.com
(714) 546-5274

CYPRESS

5331 Orange Ave.
Cypress, CA 90630
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(714) 826-0350

DANA POINT

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Dana Point, CA 92629
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EL TORO

24672 Raymond Way
Lake Forest, CA 92630
ocpl.eltoro@occr.ocgov.com
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FOOTHILL RANCH

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Foothill Ranch, CA 92610
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(949) 855-8072

FOUNTAIN VALLEY

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Fountain Valley, CA 92708
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(714) 962-1324

GARDEN GROVE/CHAPMAN

9182 Chapman Ave.
Garden Grove, CA 92841
ocpl.chapman@occr.ocgov.com
(714) 539-2115

GARDEN GROVE/MAIN

11200 Stanford Ave.
Garden Grove, CA 92840
ocpl.ggr@occr.ocgov.com
(714) 530-0711

GARDEN GROVE/TIBOR RUBIN

11962 Bailey St.
Garden Grove, CA 92845
ocpl.ggr@occr.ocgov.com
(714) 897-2594

IRVINE/HERITAGE PARK

14361 Yale Ave.
Irvine, CA 92604
ocpl.heritage@occr.ocgov.com
(949) 936-4040

IRVINE/KATIE WHEELER

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Irvine, CA 92602
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(714) 669-8753

IRVINE/UNIVERSITY PARK

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LA HABRA

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LA PALMA

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LAGUNA NIGUEL

30341 Crown Valley Pkwy.
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LAGUNA WOODS

24266 El Toro Rd.
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LIBRARY OF THE CANYONS

7531 E. Santiago Canyon Rd.
Silverado, CA 92676
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(714) 649-2216

LOS ALAMITOS/ROSSMOOR

12700 Montecito
Seal Beach, CA 90740
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SAN CLEMENTE

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SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

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VILLA PARK

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WESTMINSTER

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Westminster, CA 92683
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MOBILE LIBRARY

ocpl.mobilelibrary@occr.ocgov.com
(714) 566-2708



Stay Connected with OCPL

Join us on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, X and YouTube, where we share interactive content and program highlights. Our fun and engaging posts like #bookfacefriday and Traveling Library Card remind you that the library is always with you—your library card gives you unlimited access to knowledge and creativity, anytime, anywhere.

Don't miss out on exciting updates—subscribe to *The Check In*, our weekly newsletter, for the latest event news, database highlights, special surprises, and more! Stay informed and connected to all the amazing things happening at your library. Visit ocpl.org/newsletter to sign up today!

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