



NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK APRIL 6-12 2025

City of Berkeley City Council Meeting

March 25, 2025

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

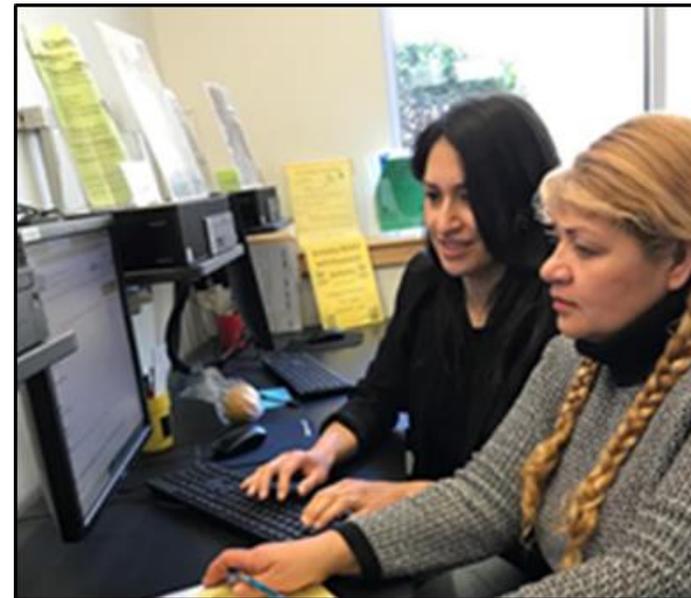
LIBRARY SERVICES UNDER THREAT NATIONALLY

- Last year, 4,240 unique book titles were targeted for censorship nationally, a 65% increase from the prior year.
- Titles representing the voices and lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC individuals made up 47 percent of those targeted in censorship attempts.
- There were attempts to censor more than 100 titles in each of these 17 states: Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wisconsin.
- **Executive Order issued March 14, 2025: the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

LIBRARY SERVICES ARE VITAL

- 3 out of 10 California adults struggles with basic reading
- Over 40 years, California's public library literacy programs (such as our Berkeley READS) have served more than 300,000 adult learners.
- Digital literacy and access is vital: One of the most checked-out items in 2024 was **laptops with hotspots** funded by the BPL Foundation. Each week every branch of our library hosts tech help programs.
- There are 39 million people in California, and 20.9 million of them have library cards. There are 157,190 cardholders at the Berkeley Public Library, 8,252 are children.



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

OUR SERVICES

- One downtown Main library; 4 branches
- Access to a beloved collection that includes:
 - 400,000+ books
 - 700,000+ e-books
 - 400,000+ audiobooks/e-audiobooks
 - 68,000+ films
 - 5,000+ home repair & culinary tools
 - Museum & State Park passes
 - Extensive databases & online learning platforms
 - And more!
- Each month the Library offers over 150 cultural & educational programs in a variety of formats – virtual, offsite, outdoors and in-person in our libraries.



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

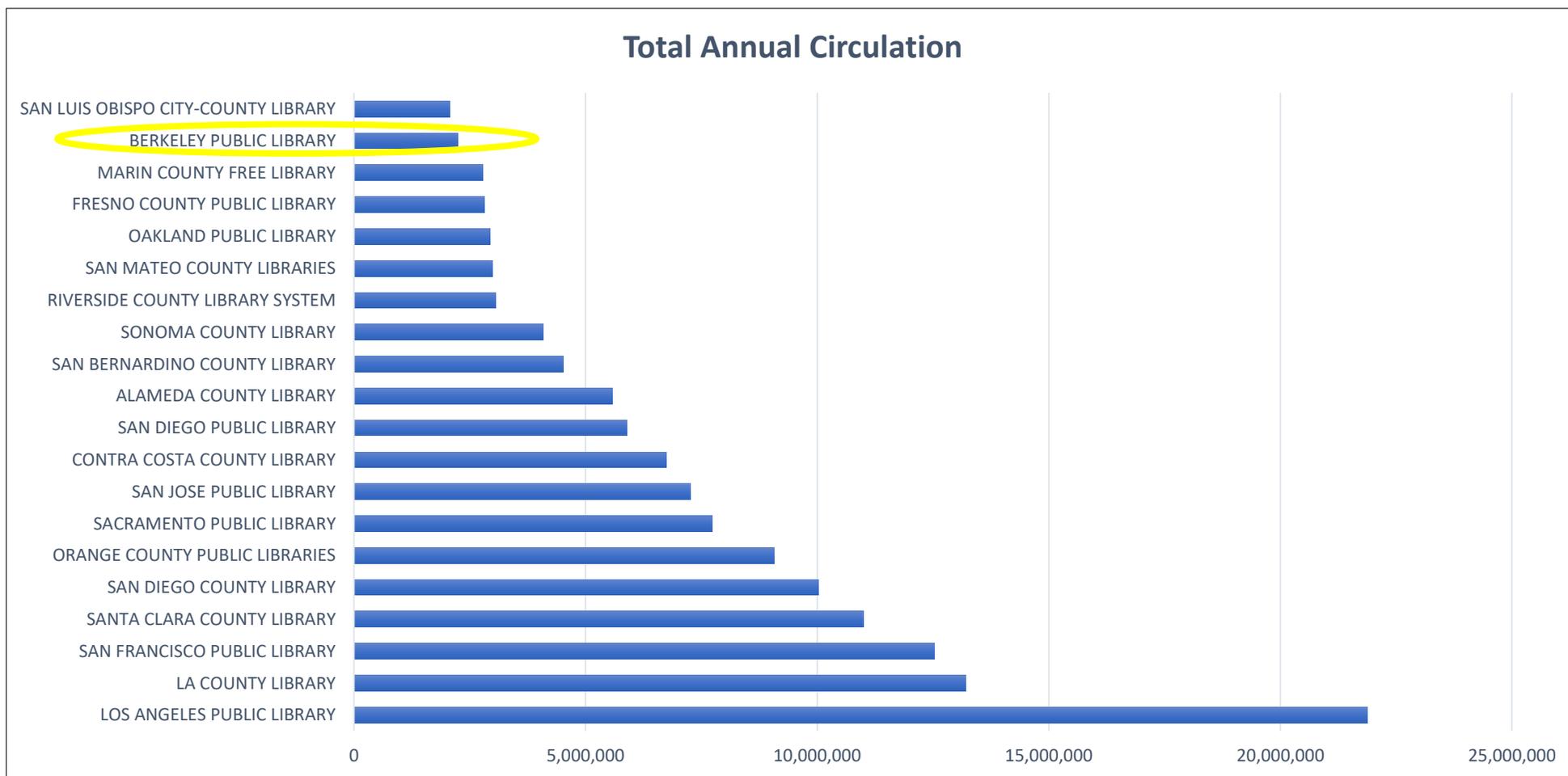
LIBRARY SERVICES - CONTINUED

- Five locations which house collections & offer access to computers, internet, printing, charging stations, comfortable spaces, community meeting spaces, study rooms & more
 - Central Library
 - Claremont
 - North
 - Tarea Hall Pittman South & Tool Lending Library
 - West & Berkeley Reads (Adult Literacy Learning Center)
- 140+/- staff providing excellent, timely, easily-accessible services, programs, resources and information to the community



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

TOP 20 HIGHEST CIRCULATION IN THE STATE



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC

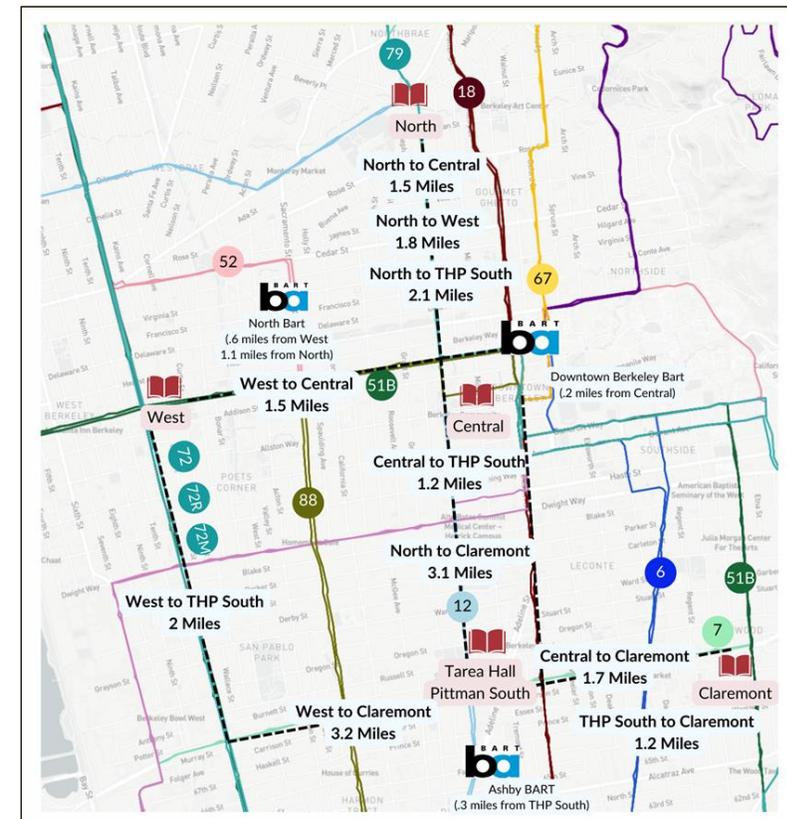
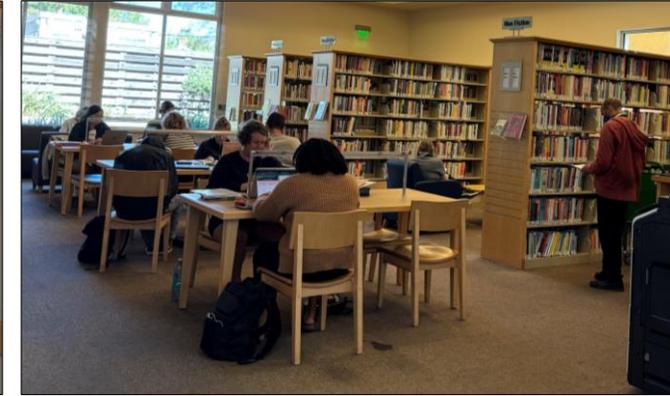


- Most BPL staff served as disaster service workers
- The Central Library and all branch libraries reopened for outdoor services by June 2020 and indoor service by June 2021
- Continuation of service to provide community with physical items from the collections via Outdoor Pickup and Books-by-Mail, 6 days a week, 8 or more hours per day
- Evening hours were restored in 2023

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

RESTORATION OF 7-DAY WEEK SERVICE

- Two open locations: Tarea Hall
Pittman South & North Branch
- **Full service days: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**
- Prior model: one location, 4 hours
- Factors considered:
 - Systemwide Circulation Activity
 - Access for Youth Patrons
 - Equitable Access to Services
 - Proximity to Public Transit



2024-2028 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN:

Taking our libraries to the next level...

MISSION

Empower, inspire, and eliminate barriers with resources and experiences.

VISION

Evolve and respond to the changing needs of the community.

VALUES

WELCOME We wholeheartedly embrace the diversity within our community and strive to cultivate an environment where all are heard, valued, and feel safe and represented. We are dedicated to eliminating systemic barriers in access to resources and services.

JOY We foster a culture of learning, curiosity, and innovation. Our commitment is evident in our diverse collection of books, digital materials and interactive programs for all ages to explore, imagine and enjoy.

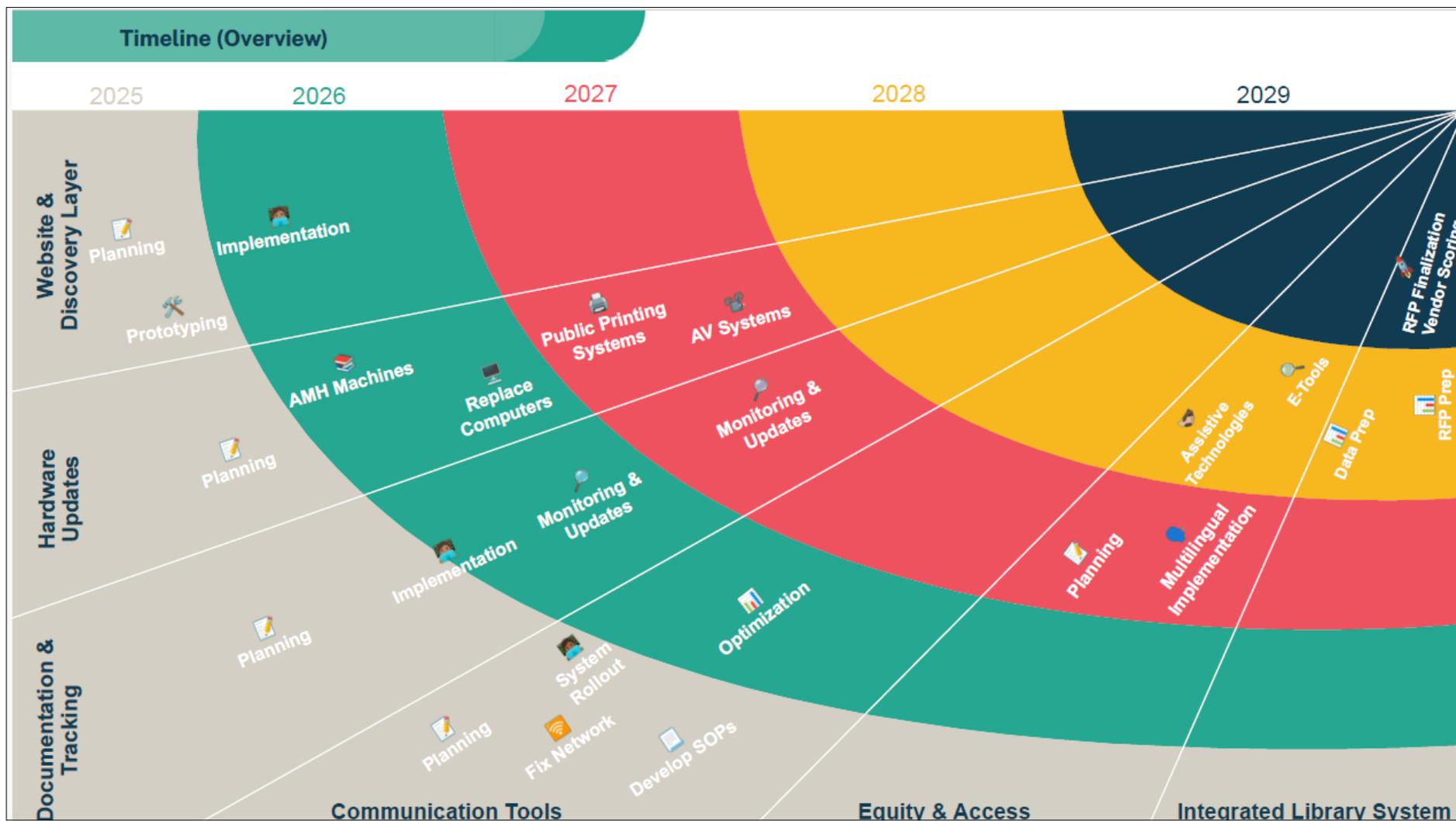
COLLABORATE We value collaboration and partnerships as catalysts for positive change. We actively seek opportunities to come together with community members to address evolving community needs, support collective action, foster innovation, and create impactful programs and initiatives.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

- 1 PATRON EXPERIENCE & EQUITABLE ACCESS**
- 2 COMMUNITY-CENTERED COLLABORATION**
- 3 A DYNAMIC & RESPONSIVE SERVICE ORGANIZATION**

BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

5-YEAR TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

STAFF TRAINING FOCUS

2024-2025 SNAPSHOT

Building capacity through providing extensive training to staff:

- Multi-day, comprehensive safety and workplace violence prevention training for all staff scheduled for Summer 2025
- 21 staff participated in 7 national conferences/trainings and 20 participated in 3 local conferences
- All staff participated in racial equity & justice training
- Staff participated in 14 other trainings in addition to smaller group trainings in Cultural Humility, Trauma-Informed Mindful Communication, and Restorative Justice
- City of Berkeley trainings



BERKELEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

GET INVOLVED!

- Attend one of our many monthly programs for children, teens, and adults
- Volunteer in the library!
- Join the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library
- Follow us on social media and share our posts.
 - Facebook - www.facebook.com/berkeleypubliclibrary
 - Instagram - [@berkeleypubliclibrary](https://www.instagram.com/berkeleypubliclibrary)
 - BlueSky - [@berkeleypubliclibrary.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/berkeleypubliclibrary)
 - LinkedIn
- Sign up for the monthly event and readers advisory emails.
www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org/about/newsletters



THANK YOU!

Questions?

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