

Hercules Library Report, September 2025

Library Programming & Outreach Staff:

Alison Peters, Library Manager
Justine Rea, Teens & Adults Librarian
Katy Buder, Children's Librarian
Eric Lee, Library Assistant
Lydia Roybal, NEW Library Assistant
Kayla Etheridge, Clerk Specialist
Ary Rangel, Senior Clerk

Programs & Activities – Year Round

Children's Storytime – every Saturday, 10 & 10:30am

Month	Attendees
January	364
February	428
March	418
April	277
May	242
June	344
July	355
August	507!!

Play Pals – 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, 10am

Month	Attendees
January	35
February	38
March	31
April	52
May	50
June	11
July	78
August	47

Pajama Storytime – Last Wednesday of the month, 6:30pm

Month	Attendees
January	12
February	17
March	27
April	14
May	22
June	Canceled-Exploration Station
July	19
August	Canceled

LEGO Builders Club - 1st Thursday of the month, 3pm

Month	Attendees
January	32
February	18
March	27
April	18
May	16
June	Canceled-Juneteenth Holiday
July	55
August	33

Chess Club – 1st Wednesday of the month, 4:15pm

Month	Attendees
January	19
February	14
March	20
April	18
May	8
June	20
July	36
August	8

Insiders – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 11:30am (Jan-May/ Sept–Dec)

Month	Attendees
January	10
February	20
March	21
April	39
May	18

Max Meditation – 2nd Wednesday of the month, 6pm

Month	Attendees
January	7
February	3
March	4
April	8
May	5
June	10
July	6
August	5

Homework Help – Wednesdays, 3-6pm (Jan-May / Sept-Dec)

Month	Attendees
January	14
February	33
March	25

April	9
May	9

Senior Center Visits – 3rd Tuesday of the month, 12pm

Month	Attendees
January	25
February	55
March	30
April	Canceled
May	30
June	35
July	40
August	35

School/Class Visits/Outreach

August: Hercules Middle School @ library	180
September: Learn and Play Montessori	30
September: Ohlone Elementary @ library	65
October: Lupine Hills @ library	25
October: Ohlone Elementary	84
October: Ohlone Elementary @ library	28
October: Carquinez Middle School	90
October: John Swett High School	64
October: Salesian Prep @ library	35
November: Lupine Hills @ library	26
December: Tiny Tots Preschool	17
December: Hercules High/Middle School	132
December: Health & Wellness Holiday Market	75
January: Lupine Hills Spelling Bee	125
January: Tiny Tots Preschool	30
February: Lupine Hills Black History Month Storytimes	125
February: Senior Center Black History Month Library Visit	28
February: Hercules Middle/High School Book Fair	10
March: Hercules Health & Wellness Fair	105
May: Hercules High Tech Fair	61
May: Summer Reading Visit, Hanna Ranch	450
May Summer Reading Visit: Saint Patrick's	250
June: Summer Reading Visit: Lupine Hills	390
June: Summer Reading Visit: Ohlone	400
June: Grove Christian Church Library Visit	8
July: CC College Immigration Forum	50
July: Tiny Tots Storytime	18
August: National Night Out	478

July Programs Review

Library Camps!

This summer, we took a page from our Parks & Rec friends' book and held three Summer Camps at the library. The camps were three-days long each and allowed young patrons to really dive deep into a fun subject/craft and produce amazing results.

Wild About Writing is our bi-annual writing workshop with local teachers Sarah Creeley and Tina Wong. Kids get a notebook and pencil, and all the support and encouragement to write their own stories – and then read them to the group! Wild About Writing was held each Saturday in July and brought **98 young writers** to the library.

Youth Services Librarian Katy Buder brought her own side passion project to **Beginning Crochet Summer Camp, July 9-11**. Crafty kids ages 6-18 learned to crochet, develop skills, met new friends, and unleashed their creativity in a series of simple projects. Campers started with just a ball of yarn and a hook—and look at them go! From slip knots to single crochet, pattern reading, and more, these beginner fiber artists learned all the basics and totally nailed it. This class was progressive, and each student signed up for the full three days – we had **28 crocheters** hone their skills on fun projects, with friends.



Wrapping things up, we brought back one of our most popular programs – **Robotics Camp** with the highly skilled teens of Decade Prep! These Berkeley area high schoolers have their very own nonprofit dedicated to teaching children all about robotics, and they partnered with us July 23-25, teaching **30** young STEM minded children how to use their imagination to draw and create their own robot – and then attach a motor and make it move! Camp culminated with a robot race to see which robots held together as they completed an obstacle course – and a great time was had by all.

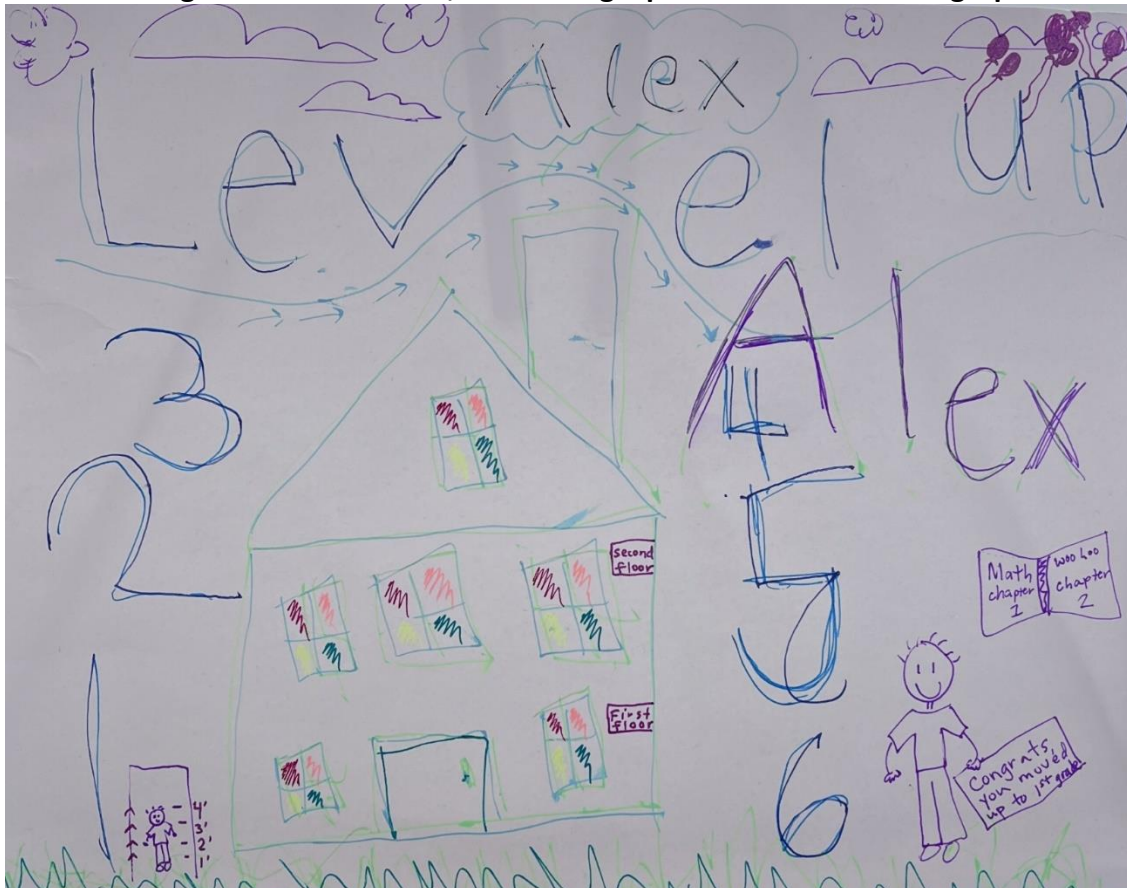


Spotlight On: Express Yourself 2025 – The Winners!



Big cheers to everyone who contributed their amazing original art to this year's Express Yourself art installation at Hercules Library. With pieces reflecting our summer reading theme, everyone Levelled Up to the challenge and we appreciate each and every artist. We held the Artists Reception on August 30th, including the vote for the winners, and will now have **three** pieces displayed at Hercules Library for the next year! We decided to pick one Child and one Adult, to keep things a bit fairer as we had professional artists submitting their work. And due to popular demand, **all** artwork will be on display in the library through September, so if you didn't get a chance to check it out, you still have time. Winners include:

Young Artist: Alex Arneiri, who used gel pens to create "Leveling Up"



Adult Artists tied between **Clara Saprasa**, who used oil on canvas to create "Our Lady of Pinole Grove":



And **Charles Lucke**, photographer of "Stairway to Level Up".



We love being able to showcase local artists in the library and look forward to next year's installation!