

Hercules Library Report, July 2025

Library Programming & Outreach Staff:

Alison Peters, Library Manager
Justine Rea, Teens & Adults Librarian
Katy Buder, Children's Librarian
Eric Lee, 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 |

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

| Month | Attendees |
|----------|-----------|
| January | 35 |
| February | 38 |
| March | 31 |
| April | 52 |
| May | 50 |
| June | 11 |

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 |

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 |

Chess Club – 1st Wednesday of the month, 4:15-5:15pm

| Month | Attendees |
|----------|-----------|
| January | 19 |
| February | 14 |
| March | 20 |
| April | 18 |
| May | 8 |
| June | 20 |

Insiders – 2nd Tuesday of the month, 11:30am

| Month | Attendees |
|----------|--------------|
| January | 10 |
| February | 20 |
| March | 21 |
| April | 39 |
| May | 18 |
| June | Summer Break |

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

| Month | Attendees |
|----------|-----------|
| January | 7 |
| February | 3 |
| March | 4 |
| April | 8 |
| May | 5 |
| June | 10 |

Homework Help – Wednesdays, 3-6pm

| Month | Attendees |
|----------|--------------|
| January | 14 |
| February | 33 |
| March | 25 |
| April | 9 |
| May | 9 |
| June | Summer Break |

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

| Month | Attendees |
|----------|-----------|
| January | 25 |
| February | 55 |
| March | 30 |
| April | Canceled |
| May | 30 |
| June | 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 Elementary @ 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 |

June Programs Review

Juneteenth Celebration, Saturday, June 14



The City of Hercules and the library partnered to hold our annual Juneteenth celebration on Saturday, June 14th. At the official ceremony at City Hall the red, black and green African Liberation Flag was raised to honor unity among people from Africa, and Hercules Mayor Dion Bailey, City Manager Dante Hall, and City Council members - including Tiffany Grimsley, whose vision brought us all together - shared stories of Juneteenth inspiration and community resilience. We had a beautiful reading of original poetry from Dr. Evangelina Ward-Jackson and got together for a family picture.

Then we held a Juneteenth Sound Healing Experience at the library, led by healer Sakai Parker - an hour of guided meditation in the peaceful library conference room.

Refreshment throughout the day was provided by Hercules' very own Dream Bowlz - cool, nourishing, and just perfect for the gathered groups.

The Library's Juneteenth exhibit by The Walking Ghosts of Black History was on display in the lobby. We appreciate and celebrate the love and community shared on this African American Freedom day.

Exploration Station! Wednesday, June 25

The Exploration Station is an annual Summer Reading tradition, this year hosted at Hercules Library! Guest partners brought their best STEAM activities, exhibits, and actual animals to thrill, and educate, children of all ages. We visited with bees and fish and reptiles (oh my!) and learned about their life cycles, habitats, and needs. We created our own bookmarks to keep track of summer reading fun and picked up a free book from The Friends of the Hercules Library. We played Viking and threw axes (safely) with Parks and Rec, viewed the skies with the Mt. Diablo Astronomical Society, enjoyed model railroads, got our faces painted, spent time with CCC Animal Services adorable adoptable animals, created beautiful art with Habitot and smelled the roses grown at Ruth Bancroft Gardens. Over 1100 children and their adults came out for an afternoon of awesome STEAM fun, and we had a blast!





In 2023, Hercules Library devised a community art installation to align with that year's Summer Reading theme. Each summer since, we've continued to hold the contest/program, Express Yourself, where artists can submit a piece to show at the library for the month of August, and the winner of the contest, as determined by a public vote, gets the opportunity to have their work shared in the library for the next year!

Express Yourself was conceived with the Community and Library Services Commission and the Hercules Library Art Exhibit policy in mind: anyone who participates will complete the Art Exhibit Policy waiver to release the library and City from liability, and artists must adhere to the requirements, which state that exhibits must:

1. Have cultural, educational, or civic interest
2. Not be used for religious services or activities
3. Not advocate or support any political party or candidate for public office
4. Not promote any commercial venture (other than the selling of original artwork exhibited)
5. Not be obscene or defamatory as defined by the U.S. Supreme Court
6. Not advocate breaking the law or disturbing the peace

The program has been well received, bringing in more of the community, and allowing the beautiful library to add "art museum" to the list of things it encompasses. This year's summer reading theme is Level Up – centered on gaming, but we will encourage artists to think beyond games and really dig into anything that the theme inspires.

The Artists Reception will be held on the last Saturday in August, the 30th: a time for the artists to meet and mingle with each other and art enthusiasts, and for everyone to vote on this year's winner.

We invite and encourage participation from anyone in the community, including artistically inclined Commissioners!