



## **STAFF REPORT TO COMMUNITY AND LIBRARY SERVICES COMMISSION (CLSC)**

**TO:** Chair Yamamoto and Members of the CLSC Commission

**SUBMITTED BY:** Alison Peters, Senior Community Library Manager

**MEETING DATE:** May 12, 2025

**TOPIC:** The Friends of the Hercules Library 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Friends of the Hercules Library and help the library honor their commitment to the community.

<https://herculeslibrary.com/friends/>

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Friends of the Hercules Library (FOtHL, or, Friends) is an official Hercules nonprofit membership organization that supports, promotes, and advocates for the library as a vital community asset. The Friends raise money for the library through memberships, financial donations, and the sale of used books that have been generously donated by members of the community. They sell these books in three ways:

- The Friends Bookstore in the library lobby
- The giant two-day Used Book Sales held twice a year
- Our online book sale program

The funds Friends raised go to purchase new materials for the library's collections and to sponsor exciting programs that entertain and educate kids and adults. For example, all of the Summer Reading prize books for children are purchased with Friends funding, and the Friends generously donate books to Hercules programs like the Holiday and Easter celebrations.

FOtHL was formed in May 2000 to support the effort to bring a library to our city. In the years before the library opened, the Friends held semi-annual used book sales and sponsored a yearly booth at the Hercules Cultural Festival. Their aim was to raise awareness of the coming library and its importance to the community. **To date FOHL has donated close to \$250,000 to the Hercules Library.**

The Friends proudly presented the Contra Costa Library with \$25,000 for the Opening Day Collection—the books and materials in place on the shelves when the Hercules Library held its grand opening in November 2006. Since then, they have continued to support the library as an outstanding resource that provides free education, entertainment and cultural enrichment to our community.

The library is holding an Anniversary party for the Friends on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their first meeting: Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6-8pm in the library, and the Community and Library Services Commission are all invited! Please join us if you can.

**ANALYSIS:**

It is my honor and pleasure as Hercules Senior Community Library Manager to celebrate The Friends of the Hercules Library, without whom I would literally not be here giving you this report today. The Friends are dedicated, they are hardworking, they are kind and friendly, they never hesitate to help the library in purchasing items for our collection, or giving away books to the community, and without them, we would not be able to bring the community the wealth of free programs for all ages. I would like to thank the Friends from the bottom of my heart, and commend them for everything they have done over the past 25 years to allow Hercules Library to thrive.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with receiving this report.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None. Please note: more detailed information can be found in the April Library Report