



Board of Library Trustees

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: MARCH 9, 2026

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: LIBRARY HOURS MODIFICATION

ISSUE:

Receive and file a report regarding a modification to library hours to begin on April 12, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file this report on a modification to library hours to begin on April 12, 2026.

BACKGROUND:

On August 3, 2023, the Riverside Public Library added Sunday hours of 10am-6pm at all eight library locations.

DISCUSSION:

In development of the 2026/2028 Two Year Annual Budget process, all city departments were tasked with identifying potential cost savings measures. As part of this process, the Library Department looked at usage of all library locations throughout the week to ensure the hours open best meet the demand set by the community.

Sunday usage at all locations makes up 11% of the total weekly usage, with the next lowest day being Saturday with 15.6% of usage.

Total Library Usage July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025		
Day	Door Count	% of Visits
Sunday	58,952	11.0%
Tuesday	101,000	18.9%
Wednesday	105,441	19.7%
Thursday	96,137	18.0%
Friday	89,176	16.7%
Saturday	83,520	15.6%
Total	534,226	100.0%

Broken down further, it becomes clear that the majority (63%) of Sunday usage occurs at the

Main, Orange Terrace, and Arlington Library locations. Locations such as, Arlanza, SSgt Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca, and SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library average less than 10 customers per hour using the facilities.

Sunday Riverside Public Library Per Branch Usage July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025								
Location	Arlanza	Arlington	Casa Blanca	Eastside	La Sierra	Main	Marcy	Orange Terrace
Total Sunday Usage over 51 weeks	3,869	7,417	2,823	2,646	6,854	20,179	5,485	9,819
Average per Sunday	76	145	55	52	134	396	108	193
Average per hour on Sunday	9	18	7	6	17	49	13	24

Based on the low usage numbers and the need to identify cost savings measures, the Library will modify open hours. Specifically, Arlington, Main, and Orange Terrace Libraries will remain open on Sundays from 10am-6pm. Arlanza, SSgt Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca, SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside, La Sierra, and Marcy locations will be closed on Sunday starting April 12, 2026.

The Arlington, Main and Orange Terrace Libraries were selected to remain open as they are the busiest locations on Sundays. Additionally, the library locations remaining open are strategically located throughout the City of Riverside, which ensures that the locations closing are no more than 4 miles from any of the facilities remaining open.

Current Library Hours	Library Hours effective
Main: Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.	Main (no change): Tuesday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Other Branches*: Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. *SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library @ Lincoln Park and Mobile Library hours are as advertised.	Arlington and Orange Terrace Library (no change): Tuesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
	Other Branches: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To better align staffing with current customer demand, we are updating our operations to focus resources during our higher-volume Tuesday through Saturday business hours, while maintaining Sunday hours at the busiest library locations. This change will help enhance the overall customer experience by improving service levels when most customers visit the library in person.

Under the current schedule, library staff are generally off every Monday and every other Saturday or Sunday, which results in the inability to provide two consecutive days off from work.

The proposed adjustment in operating hours will allow staff to receive two consecutive days off for two out of every three weeks, which is expected to positively enhance overall staff morale.

Human Resources and SEIU have been made aware of the change in operating hours and the subsequent adjustment to staff schedules. Library staff will work with them to address any concerns.

Significant marketing will be distributed related to the hours change to ensure customers are aware of the changes. To help address impacts, library staff will have RTA bus route information available. Additionally, staff will encourage use of online resources, checkout of Wi-Fi hotspots and iPads for at home access, and use of book lockers to pick up materials on Sunday.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared and Approved by:

Erin Christmas, Library Director