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National Library Week 2017

CITY LIBRARIES ARE TRANSFORMING TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS THROUGH INNOVATION AND ENGAGEMENT

SAN DIEGO – During the week of April 9 through April 15, San Diego Public Library will observe National Library Week, an opportunity to celebrate the changing role of libraries and demonstrate how they are transforming their communities. This year's theme is "Libraries Transform."

At 36 branch libraries across the city, San Diego Public Library offers free educational and cultural resources and innovative programs, including:

- maker labs and teen spaces featuring 3D printers and cutting-edge technology;
- public computers, e-books and free Wi-Fi;
- a city-wide science education program for youth called Spring Into STEAM;
- after-school homework tutoring for students;
- employment services, job training and tax help;
- READ/San Diego adult literacy program;
- the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma through Career Online High School;
- mental health services and support for military veterans; and
- world-class performances and exhibits featuring works by local artists and community art groups.

As libraries evolve to meet community needs, library attendance has gone up. In the past year, San Diego Public Library welcomed nearly seven million people, an increase of more than 20 percent in five years.

"Libraries are for everyone and offer unlimited opportunities for personal growth and lifelong learning," said Library Director Misty Jones. "In our diverse communities of San Diego, libraries have the unique ability to level the playing field for people of any age seeking information, technology and other resources to improve their quality of life."

This year, the San Diego Public Library will celebrate its 135th anniversary. The library system currently employs approximately 700 people across the city, and library volunteers contribute approximately 140,000 hours per year.

On Wednesday, April 12 at 1 p.m., Councilmember Chris Cate will participate in a National Library Week celebration at Balboa Branch Library, 4255 Mt. Abernathy Ave.

The American Library Association first sponsored National Library Week in 1958. Patrons are encouraged to share their love for libraries on social media using #LibrariesTransform. To learn more about supporting library programs, contact the San Diego Public Library Foundation at 619-238-6695 and www.SupportMyLibrary.org.

About the San Diego Public Library

With a vision of being the place for opportunity, discovery and inspiration, the San Diego Public Library is a hub for knowledge and lifelong learning. As the largest library system in the region, it serves a population of more than 1.3 million people. Learn about events at the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common and 35 community branch libraries, find links to programs and resources or search for materials in the online catalog at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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