



We heart Bookmobile



It's been spreading love and smiles to kids in Anaheim's neighborhoods for 60 years.

And we're celebrating.

Anaheim Public Library's Bookmobile started on Valentine's Day 1958, and today it is the only remaining bookmobile in Orange County. The Bookmobile crew will hold a special heart-themed party at its stop on Anna Drive this Valentine's Day.

The Bookmobile is a treasure for Anaheim, bringing all the learning, resources and fun from our libraries right to our residents.

It began as Anaheim's first branch library, bringing books and resources to those who lived far away from the city's only brick-and-mortar library. As the number of library branches grew, the Bookmobile's role changed.

So has the Bookmobile itself. The first Bookmobile vehicle was a bakery van. Later versions included a school bus and a tractor-trailer truck. Today's Bookmobile is a charter bus that runs on natural gas.

Next year, we'll get a brand new, custom-made RV.

But the Bookmobile's purpose has always been to bring all the resources of the library into Anaheim neighborhoods for all residents to enjoy.

It's especially significant for residents who might not be able to get to one of the library branches but still benefit from its services.

Through the years, the Bookmobile has checked out 5.2 million items to more than 2.2 million visitors.

That's a lot of love.

For more, visit Anaheim.net/library.

Police Review Board



We're looking for help shaping the future of community policing in Anaheim.

The city is seeking applicants to serve on our new Police Review Board, which is set to convene in the spring.

The review board is a new, expanded version of the Public Safety Board, which launched in 2014 as a two-year pilot program for civilian police oversight in Anaheim.

The Police Review Board brings expanded civilian oversight to Anaheim. Responsibilities include:

- Real-time notification of and access to the locations of officer-involved shootings
- Private briefings on major incidents, including access to body-worn camera footage
- Publishing of statistics on officer-involved shootings, uses of force, complaints and outcomes
- Receiving community complaints and concerns and referring them to Anaheim's city manager, Anaheim Police or our independent police auditor for review and response

Board members will be selected by lottery, with one representative from each of Anaheim's six City Council districts and one selected from the city at large.

Members must reside in the district they are representing, other than the at-large member who can live anywhere in Anaheim. They must also pass a background check and adhere to confidentiality in ongoing investigations.

The board will meet monthly with support from the city manager's office and OIR Group, Anaheim's independent law enforcement consultant since 2007.

Applications will be posted soon.

You can apply and find out more at Anaheim.net/PRB.

A day's work



More than 35 people looking to transition out of homelessness through work have taken part in Better Way Anaheim.

A new city program, Better Way Anaheim offers basic community service and work experience to those who are homeless.

Each week for the past month, groups of four to five volunteers have gone out to Willow and Boysen parks to help spread mulch, remove graffiti, paint trash cans and pick up litter.

The outings help us maintain our parks, but that's just a side benefit. The program's goal is to provide experience for someone looking to get back to work.

It also provides the dignity of a day's work, which can't be underestimated in someone's life.

The volunteer work with Better Way Anaheim could be the thing that gets a potential employer to take a chance on someone working to better their situation.

Love Anaheim, a nonprofit that brings together other nonprofits, faith-based groups and volunteers to work on community service projects, is running Better Way Anaheim for the city.

This year, we are looking to expand the program by bringing in Los Angeles-based nonprofit Chrysalis, which runs job programs for those looking to better their lives through self-sufficiency.

Chrysalis works with employers to provide transitional jobs for those looking to gain real-world skills on the road to long-term employment.

In the meantime, Better Way Anaheim crews will continue their weekly outings in the city.

Volunteers get meal and gift cards worth about \$60 as a way of saying thank you. They are also referred to another Anaheim nonprofit partner, City Net.

City Net oversees a network of more than 100 nonprofits, churches and community groups providing resources to transition people into housing.

For more about what Anaheim is doing to address homelessness, check out Anaheim.net/homeless.

Buffalo Soldier



They roamed the heart of America, serving their country.

Now the Buffalo Soldiers fill the halls of the Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center in downtown Anaheim.

“The Buffalo Soldier Experience” is now open at Muzeo through March 11, coinciding with Black History Month.

The exhibit features photos and artifacts showing the historical contributions of African Americans in the military, including the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, which served on the Western Frontier after the Civil War.

Those who visit the exhibit can see a full size “chuckwagon,” an officer's tent, a sword, pistol and lantern that soldiers used, uniforms soldiers wore and much more.

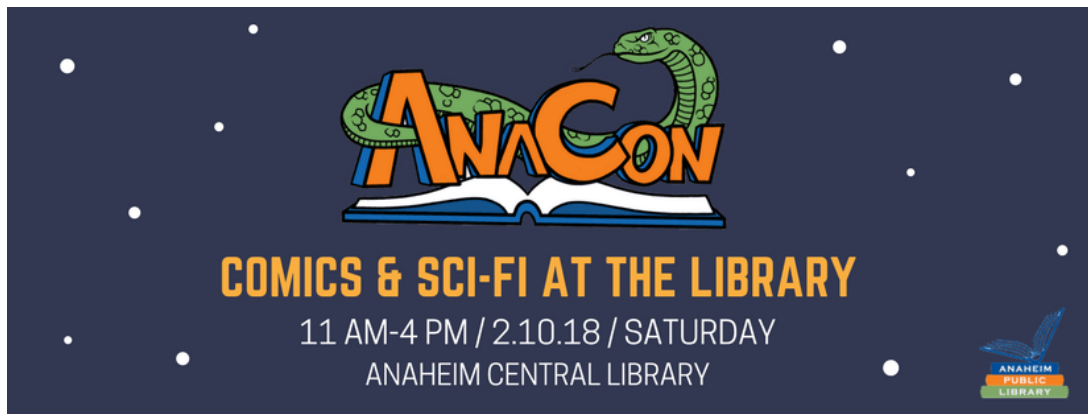
The exhibit also highlights ways the Buffalo Soldiers’ history intersected with the growth of the nation, even going on with the Tuskegee Airmen and astronauts.

The exhibit is curated by Bobby McDonald, president and executive director of the Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange County. McDonald is a descendent of a Buffalo Soldier.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for military and seniors, \$5 for children ages 4 to 12 and free for children age 3 and younger.

Tickets are available at [Muzeo.org/tickets](https://muzeo.org/tickets).

AnaCon comes to the library



Calling all lovers of sci-fi and comic books.

The second annual AnaCon is coming to the Anaheim Central Library this Saturday, Feb. 10.

The event will feature dozens of science fiction authors and graphic novel illustrators as well as fun activities for everyone’s inner — or outer — geek.

There will be author panels, sci-fi story time, cosplayers, games, crafts and more.

Attendees can also buy specialty books and comics from Comic Book Hideout, Comic Hero University and the Science Fiction Bookstore Mysterious Galaxy.

There will also be offerings from Unsung Brewery and Burntzilla food truck.

It's sure to be a fun time. Last year's inaugural event drew more than 1,400 people.

- **What:** AnaCon
- **When:** Feb. 10, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Where:** Central Library, 500 W. Broadway
- **Info:** Anaheim.net/library.

Share your vision



We're tapping the creativity of Anaheim's high schools to help turn Beach Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue into a community art canvas.

As part of a digital art competition from the city of Anaheim and partner Zelman Development Co., 10 winning entries will be featured at Beach and Lincoln, the gateway to west Anaheim.

The art will help usher in something big: a 250,000-square-foot shopping center with a main street-style paseo, restaurants, outdoor dining, shops, plazas, public art and other features.

Westgate Center is a major part of Anaheim's efforts to transform Beach Boulevard. We're also working with neighboring cities to create a cool sense of place along Beach with mile markers and other signs.

Our Community Canvas Art Competition is part of this effort.

Art submissions must be in the theme of "community," with students reflecting what community means to them.

This broad theme may include but is not limited to art representing the city of Anaheim, a student's neighborhood or Beach Boulevard itself, with its connection to Southern California's beach scene.

How it works:

- The competition is open to Anaheim's eight high schools
- A judging panel including city officials, community members and Zelman will pick 10 top entries for printing on the fence screen along Beach Boulevard
- The public will vote on the top three entries
- The top three will receive prizes of \$500 for first place, \$300 for second and \$100 for third
- The first place student's school will receive an art supply donation

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 28, with voting to take place in March. The finalists will be chosen and displayed this spring and summer.

More at Anaheim.net/canvas.

Sister city



Bring the magic of Mito, Japan, into your home this summer by becoming a host family for exchange students.

The students will be visiting Anaheim from July 20 to July 31.

Each year, the Anaheim Sister City Commission welcomes students from Mito and introduces them to everything Anaheim.

During their week-long stay, the students will learn about Anaheim and visit some of the top spots in the city. Think the Packing House, Center City, City Hall, Angel Stadium of Anaheim and, of course, Disneyland.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the students and also for Anaheim families. Families will get a great experience and receive a stipend for serving as hosts.

Mito, just north of Tokyo, is one of three Anaheim sister cities along with Spain's Vitoria-Gasteiz and Pudong, China.

Stay tuned for more details at Anaheim.net/SisterCity.

Spring greening



It's time for some spring "greening," and Anaheim Public Utilities is here to help.

We'll be in your neighborhood this March with tips on how to save on your utility bill. At each of six events across the City Council districts we'll have fun activities, giveaways and more.

Don't miss the event near you:

- **March 7:** 4-7 p.m., Home Depot, 800 N. Brookhurst St.
- **March 8:** 4-7 p.m., Northgate Market, 2030 E. Lincoln Ave.
- **March 14:** 4-7 p.m., Walmart Neighborhood Market, 121 N. Beach Blvd.
- **March 15:** 4-7 p.m., Festival Plaza (near Petco),
8148 E. Santa Ana Canyon Road
- **March 21:** 4-7 p.m., Northgate Market, 720 W. La Palma Ave.
- **March 22:** 4-7 p.m., Walmart Neighborhood Market, 1120 S. Anaheim Blvd.

More at Anaheim.net/utilities.