



## LIBRARY CLOSED

on Monday, January 20,  
in the observance of  
MLK, Jr. Day.



# BEAUMONT LIBRARY DISTRICT

a California Special District,  
independent of both city and county  
government, providing library services  
to Beaumont and Cherry Valley



## January 2025

## New Director and Library Board Member for Beaumont Library District in 2025

by Luren Dickinson, Director Emeritus

Following a process which drew applicants from across the country, Kelly Van Valkenburg received unanimous Library Board approval to become Beaumont Library's new Director. She succeeds Luren Dickinson who is Director Emeritus through the expansion project.

The Search Committee, Trustees Bret Mahoney and Cynthia Carr, as well as Beaumont resident Wayne Disher, a San Jose State University faculty member, interviewed finalists on October 26 and her hiring was ratified on November 21 with a January 1 effective date.

Kelly began her library journey as a Page at the Rancho Mirage Library in 2005. While working there full-time as a Clerk, she received her B.A.

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in U.S. History from Cal State San Bernardino in 2009 and her Master of Library and Information Science from San Jose State University in 2013.

After ten years at Rancho Mirage and managing their Circulation Dept., she left to work at Chuckwalla Valley State Prison in Blythe as the Senior Librarian where she managed five on-site libraries.

As part of her MLIS graduate program, Kelly completed an internship at Beaumont Library District in 2013. Three years later, she was hired as the Early Literacy Outreach Librarian, overseeing the bookmobile and storytime service provided to in-home childcare and preschool facilities.

She later served as Teen Librarian, became Senior Librarian for Youth Services in 2018, was promoted to Principal Librarian for Outreach & Youth Services in 2021, and has served as Assistant Director since 2022.



Kelly's accomplishments include revitalizing the Family Place Library program, creating the Time with Tots toddler program, revamping the children's space to include a play area during all library hours, and coordinating innovative and successful summer reading programs. She also played an instrumental role in writing and monitoring grants received from the State

Library establishing our summertime "Lunch at the Library," facilitating the purchase of Beaumont Library first full-size Bookmobile, and supporting our expansion and renovation project.

Since moving here in 2018, Kelly has developed a great love for the community and has been very active locally. She is a member of the Beaumont-Cherry Valley Rotary Club and has served as an announcer for the Cherry Festival, Veteran's Day, and Christmas Lights Parades.

Kelly recently purchased a home in the historic "Library Section" of Beaumont where she lives with her better half, two kids, two dogs, and several alley cats. She says, "I am both honored and thrilled to lead the Beaumont Library District into the next chapter of its history as we expand to meet the needs of a rapidly growing community."

# Susan Aguilar-Martinez Joins BLD Board

Susan Aguilar-Martinez is the newest member of the Library Board, replacing Steve Perry. She grew up in Lincoln Heights, California where she developed a love of reading from her mother who emphasized literacy, due to her Catholic faith, and read to her in Spanish. On weekends, Susan walked nine blocks to use the Lincoln Heights Library and libraries have been essential for her ever since.

Moving around the country with her husband, Manny, her first stops were the local libraries to get herself and her children acclimated to their new environments. That was certainly the case when the family moved to Beaumont in 2007. Through participation in preschool to teen activities, Beaumont Library played a critical role in helping Susan and her four children establish roots and forge lasting friendships.

Today, as the Career Readiness Coordinator for Beaumont Unified School District, Susan continues to use the library as a resource to support her work with students. She says, "I am eager to continue supporting the library's efforts and be a resource for community members of all ages."



## E-Book Sharing Library Group Expands

Partners in our resource sharing group for e-books, through the Libby app, have increased to 13 libraries in 5 counties, including:

Camarillo Public Library, Moorpark City Library, Palm Desert Library, Riverside Public Library (coming soon), San Bernardino Public Library, Buena Park Library District, Huntington Beach Public Library, Alhambra Civic Center Library, Torrance Public Library, Redondo Beach Public Library, Whittier Public Library, Beverly Hills Public Library, and Commerce Public Library.

## Sign Up for Library Newsletter or Notices

To receive this newsletter automatically via email, please write to [info@bld.lib.ca.us](mailto:info@bld.lib.ca.us) and you can also request notices on programs for children, or teens and adults, through the same address.

## **Beaumont Library District**

125 East Eighth Street

Beaumont, CA 92223

951-845-1357

[mybld.org](http://mybld.org)

## **Library Hours During Construction**

Sunday—1 to 5 p.m.

Monday—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tuesday—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday—1 to 5 p.m.

Thursday—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday—10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday—1 to 5 p.m.

## **Bookmobile Stops**

**Tuesdays**—11 a.m., Noble Creek—Storytime

**Wednesdays**—11 a.m., Chatigny—Storytime

3 p.m., Blossom Apartments

4 p.m., Liberty Village

**Saturdays**—9 a.m., Mickelson Park

10 a.m. Trevino Park

## **Board of Trustees**

Susan Aguilar-Martinez

Cynthia Carr

Margaret Coleman

Michelle Lillard-Geiser

Bret Mahoney

## **Director**

Kelly Van Valkenburg