

AND MOVERS SHAKERS 2021

THE PEOPLE
SHAPING
THE **FUTURE**
OF LIBRARIES



San Francisco Library Commission
June 17, 2021

Change Agent: Shawna Sherman



Active Advocate

As an early career San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) teen librarian in a racially diverse, working-class neighborhood, Shawna Sherman enjoyed early success with a community quilt project, bringing a sewing instructor to teach teens. More than six years later the quilt, a memento of their neighborhood, is still on exhibit at the branch. She then served as the inaugural tech librarian for SFPL's new techmobile.

As SFPL's first transitional age youth–dedicated librarian, Sherman earned a grant from the Friends of the Library to provide independent living skills training to young adults 18–25 who were leaving home for the first time or transitioning out of foster homes or the justice system.

"She is very passionate about equity issues for youth," says former manager Alice Chan. "She has a special interest in making sure this age group is taken care of and does not slip through the cracks."

Currently SFPL's African American Center manager—her "dream job"—Sherman works to improve the library's support for Black youth and families. She's partnered with San Francisco Unified School District's (SFUSD) African American Parent Advisory Council and Black Student Union, 100% College Prep Institute, and the San Francisco Alliance of Black Educators, attending their meetings to share what's going on at the African American Center and connect with Black families in the district. She also received an ALA Great Stories Club grant; the center partnered with the African American Achievement and Leadership Initiative on a



CURRENT POSITION

Manager, African American Center, San Francisco Public Library

DEGREE

MLIS, San José State University, CA, 2007

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