



Lianne Urada,

# Homelessness in Public Spaces:

## An Assessment at the San Diego Central Library

Nationwide, public libraries are experiencing an increase of “on-premise” opioid overdoses and other issues affecting homeless library-users (e.g. youth, single parent/families, formerly incarcerated, and human trafficking victims). No other researcher is conducting research on this population at the San Diego Central Library (SDCL). Studies focused on this population are scarce. The SDSU School of Social Work Consensus Organizing Center, graduate students, and the Principal Investigator will conduct research (focus groups, interviews, and pilot survey questions) with a minimum of 10 library staff (total staff=100) and community stakeholders, and 20+ patrons experiencing homelessness, housing, and financial instability at SDCL. SDCL presents a unique opportunity to access this population in an environment that de-stigmatizes them and treats them as equal patrons. Findings from this project will inform policy, future interventions, and survey research/grant submissions to aid libraries in meeting the needs of homeless populations, locally and nationally.