

2023

Biennial Report

Highlights



LIBRARIES
MAKE
GREAT
COMMUNITIES



Nyam and Tom at West Branch – Berkeley READS tutor and learner pair



BERKELEY
PUBLIC LIBRARY
FOUNDATION

1,931

TIMES THE LAPTOPS FOR
LOAN WERE CHECKED OUT

885,225 ELECTRONIC MEDIA
CIRCULATION PER YEAR



FOUNDATION PROJECTS



CHILDREN'S STORY ROOM

Plans are underway for the Story Room renovation at Central. Anderson Brulé Architects have provided beautiful designs with a "Nature & Wonder" theme. Look for new shapes, textures, and ways to engage our youngest library lovers.

NEW AND REFURBISHED FURNITURE AND LIGHTING

at the neighborhood libraries will soon create warm, welcoming, and comfortable environments for people to gather, learn, and explore.

A CARING COMMUNITY

More than a place with good books, the Berkeley Public Library (BPL) fosters a safe and supportive community. Vast resources are available to nourish creativity, boost school success, enhance job training, and connect people with legal and social services.



CLICK FOR VIDEO:
About the Library's Social Services
with Chenice Jackson

CARE KITS

Personal hygiene kits are now available at all BPL locations. The care kits include bar soap, shampoo/body bath, lotion, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth, pocket tissue, and a comb. Socks and sanitary products are also available.



TEENS ONLY SPACE

Since our last report, teens have made the new Teen space at Central their own. Patron privacy prevents us from showing them in the room, so stop by — the doors are glass — check out how much fun is happening!





479 TOTAL BAY AREA AUTHORS HONORED BY THE FOUNDATION
AT THE AUTHORS DINNER DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS.

1,436,369 BOOKS AND PRINTED
MATERIALS AVAILABLE



CLICK FOR VIDEO:
Banned Books & Censorship
with Kathy Huff



AUTHORS DINNER

The Authors Dinner returned to the Central Library this year to celebrate 20 years as "Berkeley's most glamorous literary night out."



FREEDOM TO READ

With censorship and battles over books raging nationwide, Foundation Director Kathy Huff speaks out to support the Berkeley Public Library and libraries everywhere to help fight book bans and attacks on librarians.

BERKELEY BUILDS READERS

The Foundation provides ongoing grants to support early childhood and family literacy outreach. These highly successful volunteer and librarian-led projects bring valuable literacy resources and story time programming to Berkeley Unified School District Early Childhood Education Centers, local Head Starts, shelters, drop-in centers, preschools, and teen parent groups.



A ROOM FULL OF MYSTERY

Authors Cara Black & R.C. Barnes share a moment at the Rosa Shattuck Circle reception celebrating the new Mystery Room. This space is home to the mystery collection and serves as a new program space for activities at Central.



CONSCIOUS KITS FOR KIDS

A new collection on racial equity, identity, and social justice is geared toward preschoolers ages 3-5 and their caregivers. Each bag includes three different picture books with discussion guides and a list of resources. Themes include Identity and Belonging, Immigration/Journey, Social Justice, and Disability Awareness. There are books in English, Spanish, and Braille. Kits are flying off the shelves at all 5 BPL locations.



WAYFINDING

New interactive monitors make finding your way easy at Central.





157

CULINARY ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR CHECK-OUT AT THE TOOL LIBRARY

6,868

USES OF BRAINFUSE ONLINE SKILLS SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND JOB SEEKERS

100

NEW LAPTOPS AND HOTSPOTS FOR LENDING



LEGACY SOCIETY

This past year, we launched a new giving campaign and recognition category that honors donors who include the Berkeley Public Library Foundation in their planned giving. Bequests and estate gifts are added to the Generation Fund for the Library's long-term growth and health.



ROSA SHATTUCK CIRCLE

The Rosa Shattuck Circle recognizes leadership-level giving. We have 115 members in this group, with plenty of room for more! Rosa Morse Shattuck was the Berkeley philanthropist who donated the land with her rose garden and secured the funding for Berkeley's first permanent public library in 1903. Circle members make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more and enjoy special recognitions and benefits.



CLICK FOR VIDEO: The Rosa Shattuck Story with Linda Schacht Gage



FAN CLUB

Our Fan Club was launched to recognize donors who make recurring monthly donations. We love these sustaining gifts so much that we give our members a tote bag and invitations to special events. These 30+ donors provide essential support for ongoing projects.



THE CHARLIE CART PROJECT

The Charlie Cart continues to travel creating fun food events and STEM learning opportunities for all ages.



1,387

NUMBER OF GIFTS MADE SINCE OUR LAST REPORT

ICE CREAM MAKERS, AIR FRYERS AND FOOD DEHYDRATORS ARE THE MOST CHECKED OUT ITEMS IN CULINARY COLLECTION





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Thank you, Donors

Your gifts make a great library possible!

For over 25 years, the Library Foundation has partnered with thousands of donors like you – individuals, organizations, foundations, and businesses – to broaden support for the Berkeley Public Library. Gifts to the Foundation go beyond what public tax dollars can do. The impact of this support is felt everywhere at the library.

Thanks to you, we make innovation happen and excellence possible at all five library locations. **Thanks to you**, we outfit new spaces, refurbish library buildings, and resource exciting new projects that advance literacy learning for every age and stage of life – in reading, math, art, science, and engineering. **Thanks to you**, we can secure technologies and services to advance social equity and ensure that our library continues to be accessible to all. **Thanks to you**, we could provide emergency funding during a global health crisis. And today, when libraries, books, and authors are under attack, we can advocate for the freedom of information and the inherent right to read.

Thank you for being part of the donor community that keeps our library strong and ever-ready to serve the needs of our splendidly diverse and vibrant community.

This biennial report highlights recent initiatives, events, and upcoming projects made possible by your generosity.

615,828

DOLLARS OF PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT TO
ADVANCE OUR LIBRARY'S MISSION AS A
TRUSTED HUB OF READING, LEARNING,
AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.



Platinum
Transparency
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Thank you!

THIS BIENNIAL REPORT RECOGNIZES THE GIFTS MADE BETWEEN JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2023.
WE DO OUR BEST TO BE ACCURATE IN THIS REPORT.
PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS.

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Bayer

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Disney
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Up to \$999

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*Thank you! Your monthly gifts
 help keep our library strong!*



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