

2023

SPRING

NEWSLETTER



Redwood City Library
FOUNDATION
Supporting Your Library for Today and Tomorrow

Our mission is to support the Redwood City Public Library in cultivating literacy, life-long learning, and community connections.

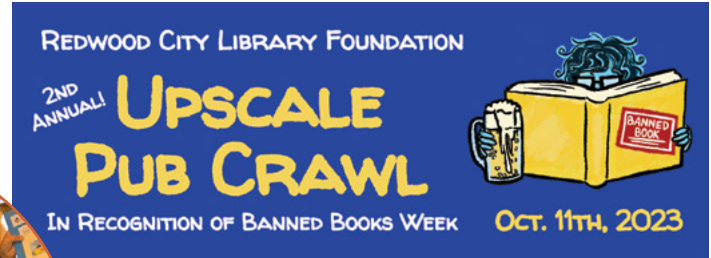
Save the Date for our Second Annual Upscale Pub Crawl

Mark your calendars for October 11!

Last year, we held our inaugural Upscale Pub Crawl in recognition of Banned Books Week. Over 300 people purchased tickets, allowing them to receive a discounted drink from select downtown pubs and learn more about banned books from Library Foundation representatives at each location. Attendees enjoyed a fun evening while helping RCLF continue to support Library initiatives!

Banned Books Week 2023 will be October 1-7 and the Second Annual Upscale Pub Crawl will be held on Wednesday, October 11.

Book banning in school libraries has increased nearly 30% in the last semester of the 2022-2023 school year. Banning occurs when an individual or group challenges a book it perceives as inappropriate. PEN America, the nonprofit free-speech organization,



found 1477 instances of prohibited books during the first half of this academic year. Legislation passed in some states has caused some educators to remove all books in school libraries or classrooms for fear of going against the often ambiguous laws.

Banning also occurs in public libraries and some counties have threatened to withhold library funding if challenged books are not removed. Texas has the highest number of bans, followed by Florida, Missouri, Utah, and South Carolina.

Plan to join us on October 11 to learn about banned books and have some fun while supporting the Library Foundation. For information or tickets, go [here](#).

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Your Library Support Makes a Brighter Future Possible

In April, National Library Week's theme was "There's More to the Story," which provided the opportunity to share how libraries impact communities and consider what the library has meant to you and your family. In addition to books, library programming brings communities together for entertainment, education, and connection through book clubs, storytimes, makerspace classes, community art installations, and much more! Libraries support community infrastructure by providing internet and technology access, literacy skills, and support for businesses, job seekers, and entrepreneurs. When library doors open each morning, the library becomes a welcoming space for many. We would love to hear how the library has impacted your life. See the [Share Your Story](#) article.

Thanks to your support, our local library is a vibrant community hub. You helped RCLF raise more than \$308,000 in 2022 to support library initiatives such as Makerspace in the Downtown Library, Career Online High School, Community Art Installations, and Bridging the Digital

Divide! New donors supported RCLF at our inaugural Upscale Pub Crawl last September during Banned Books Week. This annual library fundraiser promotes community awareness about how to protect the freedom to read and support library professionals to defend intellectual freedom. Don't be fooled into thinking that book banning is not an issue here in the Bay Area — books are challenged regularly in our local libraries!

We have a tremendous donor base with 45% of donors repeating their giving year-to-year — you truly understand the impact of the library on our community. Your library support makes a brighter future possible for everyone. For a list of 2022 donors, please click [here](#).



Lisa Hicks-Dumanske

What's Your Library Story?

Redwood City Public Library (RCPL) improves the lives of residents all over Redwood City and needs **your** help to keep that going. Tell us how the library and its initiatives have made a difference to you. Your story, along with others, will help the Library Foundation demonstrate how integral the library has been for our community. The stories collected will be used to help promote RCPL with donors to ensure the library can stay a safe, inclusive, and open space for learning.

"The most beautiful thing was that there were books in Spanish for children who still did not speak English," said resident Maria Vasquez, who brought her children to RCPL

when she first arrived in the United States 10 years ago.

J.R. Refuerzo used the library as a quiet place to complete his private pilot's license, "I am a tremendous supporter of the Library as it provided me with a space to study to become a pilot. Following each of my flight lessons at the nearby San Carlos Airport, I regularly went to the Redwood Shores Branch Library to read, study, and review my notes."

"The librarians have always been great, whether in suggesting books when the kids were young, showing us where to find books, or resolving checkout issues."

Even the simplest compliments speak volumes and can have a huge impact, just like this one from Maria Reilin. "The librarians have always been great, whether in

Share your **RCPL** story.

Help the Redwood City Library Foundation fund initiatives!



suggesting books when the kids were young, showing us where to find books, or resolving checkout issues."

We welcome anyone and everyone to tell their story. Not a great writer? Don't worry about it; leave the prize-winning writing to your favorite authors. You can dictate your story to a Foundation member, or tell your story however you wish; **your own words are the best words**. Use the link below or feel free to contact us at rclf-info@redwoodcity.org and we can help you share your story. [Click Here to Share Your RCPL Story!](#)



Board Member Spotlight: Ashley Quintana

Congratulations to board member Ashley Quintana, selected by the Redwood City Pulse as one of four local prominent women in Redwood City, recognized in honor of National Women's History Month.

Ashley Quintana serves as board member of the Redwood City Library Foundation, Vice-Chair of the Redwood City Arts Commission, and Public Policy Manager at Meta. She also led the Racial Equity Mural Project at the Jefferson underpass.

Ashley spent her childhood in Redwood City libraries and benefited from a Spark program (<https://www.sparkbayarea.org/>) internship in middle school. Ashley served on the Spark board for seven years. Her role on the State Policy Team for Meta ensures that the company maintains positive relationships with the local community, chambers, and policymakers.

Ashley credits her success to being raised by a strong single mom, pivotal internships, and her current manager. She learned the importance of building your professional network, as you never know when you will meet someone who will be a valuable resource and connection.

Congratulations to Ashley as she continues to inspire women wavemakers in our community!



RCLF Supports 4C's Project

'What Community Means to You'



The [Redwood City Library Foundation](#), in partnership with the [Redwood City Arts Commission](#), was honored to have supported the first **'Collaborate, Construct, Create Community'** project at the Redwood City Library. This week-long community art experience celebrated the diversity of our community and provided the opportunity to paint a 20-foot art wall installation located in front of the Downtown Library. The prompt for participants was to think about what community means to you, pick colors, choose a blank space and "make it your own." It was amazing to have our community come together with this collaborative public art piece. During the three painting sessions, over 600 community members participated, and helped create a colorful and diverse visual representation of the interconnectedness of community.

The art wall was exhibited in front of the library for a week after the closing celebration and the wall materials will be recycled. Photos of the full mural and individual panels will be displayed in the library and on-line, so stay tuned. Thank you to the RWC Arts Commission for spearheading this project and bringing artist Richard Art Felix's EverybodyCanPaint initiative (www.everybodycanpaint.com/) to Redwood City residents!

Donate Your Car to the Redwood City Library Foundation

One way to support Redwood City Public Library is to donate your extra car, truck, or RV to RCLF. Donating your car is easy. Simply contact CARS, a non-profit vehicle donation program that partners with the Library Foundation. CARS will pick up your car, running or not, for free and sell it at auction. Proceeds from the sale go directly to the Library Foundation and you receive a tax deduction.

The average value of a donated vehicle is \$2,000-\$3,000. RCLF typically receives one to three donations per year. This year we were fortunate that a Tesla was donated and we realized over \$40,000 from the sale! To donate your car, go to careasy.org/nonprofit/redwood-city-library-foundation.

Donating your car is a great way to support a worthy cause and make a difference in the community.



Current RCLF Initiatives

Your gifts promote literacy and building community for all ages through the following initiatives:

Makerspace

A community workspace in the Downtown Library that promotes curiosity and creativity, where users can learn and use a variety of technologies and craft making.

Bridging the Digital Divide

Digital literacy tools, including hotspot devices, computers, data, and annual software licenses.

Career Online High School in the Library

An 18-month program where adult learners can earn a high school diploma and career certificate with support from library personnel.



Celebrating the Makerspace First Anniversary

We had a PARTY! A year ago, we were celebrating the opening of Makerspace in the Downtown Library, an initiative for which the Library Foundation raised over \$420,000 since 2019. This March, we celebrated the success of Makerspace at its one-year anniversary with a small reception.

Over 5,000 children and adults have attended hundreds of classes and programs. Library staff and volunteers lead programs such as sewing, podcasting, 3D printing, art, drop-in tech help, coding, robotics, and much more! There is something for everyone — you, your children, your grandchildren, and programs for the whole family. Lego Robot classes will be all the rage this summer! Learn more about the collaborative co-working space now available with TVs and laptops. Some makerspace activities and classes, including sewing, photography, crafts, and art, are also offered in Spanish. Be sure to check the calendar regularly: www.redwoodcity.org/departments/library/makerspace.

Here is what community member Julia had to say, "The coding club in Makerspace expanded the age range and took in my then 4-year old. Did I mention how incredibly kind the librarians are? They really care about the kids and the community and go out of their way. We benefit greatly individually, but I also see how much the community benefits as well, especially the kids from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds."

Makerspace equipment always needs regular upgrades, so thank you for making Makerspace a reality and continuing to support Library Foundation initiatives.

DONATE NOW!



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1044 Middlefield Rd. • Redwood City, CA 94063
 E rclf-info@redwoodcity.org • P (650) 780-7045
www.rclfdn.org Tax ID#94-3293215