



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

Libraries: An American Value

What does your library mean to you? Even during chaotic times, we all hope we can count on our local library. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good for today and tomorrow, each one of us must step up to provide financial support, volunteer assistance, and advocacy for our libraries. Libraries contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech in a world that celebrates both our similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

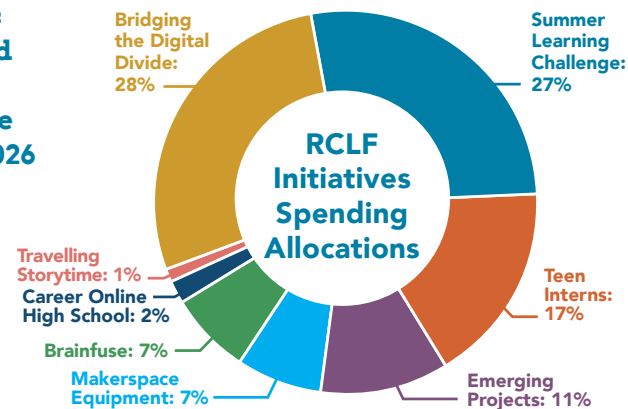
Libraries are essential. They provide free and equitable access to information imperative for education, employment and enjoyment. They are crucial community hubs, offering safe public spaces for learning, gathering, and connecting with others. Libraries also act as vital resources for job seekers and entrepreneurs, all while supporting democratic ideals and individual empowerment.

If these values resonate with you, donate to your library, volunteer, or call your representative to advocate for full funding for our libraries. **The impact of libraries cannot be overstated.**

To see more information about any of the RCLF-funded initiatives or to donate, go to:

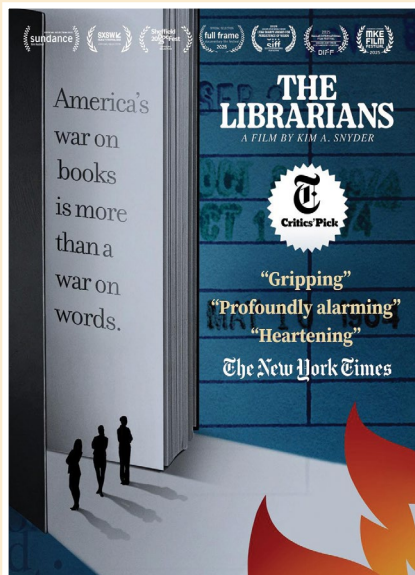


Portions allocated for each Initiative in our 2026 budget



Torrey Smith, Cofounder and Engineering Fellow, Endiatx, said:

"Public libraries changed my life. As a young kid coming from a family of limited means, libraries were the sanctuary where I could explore the world through the books I read and brought home. Those books were both an inspiration, as well as an onramp, to my education as an aerospace engineer."



Librarians: Our New Superheroes!

More than 70 community members attended a film screening and discussion of "The Librarians," a different kind of super hero movie, on September 22 at the Redwood City Downtown Library. "The Librarians" chronicles how book bans are spreading, and librarians are being harassed, fired and even threatened with criminalization for defending the right to read. The film is a rallying cry for intellectual freedom.

A question and answer session followed the film, moderated by Library Director Derek Wolfgram, who shared that he has denied requests to remove books, and instead has encouraged the community to suggest books to add various viewpoints to the collection.

From the film:

"If you can control the library, you control the community. If you can control the flow of information, you can control the ideas. You've got everything."

It might start with school libraries but where does it end?

For more information on anti-censorship efforts:
ala.org/advocacy/fight-censorship

Celebrating 10 Years of Career Online High School with Three New Graduates

The Redwood City Council celebrated the newest class of high school graduates from the Library's [Career Online High School](#) (COHS) initiative. Ezra Flores Solorio, Olga Gonzalez, and Silvana Leon were recognized at the September 29 City Council meeting, followed by a reception in the Downtown Library.

Graduate Silvana (in photo) said she was thankful to have the opportunity to continue learning and for the kindness she received *"from people I saw every day at the library and from people I didn't even know. My family and I are so grateful to all of you, who are doing a great job for the Redwood City community to provide this opportunity."*

She wants to eventually work with children and is enrolled in the Community Building Academy to help discover her path.

RCLF is gifting all three graduates with iPads to help in their chosen careers.



Since the initiative started at the Library 10 years ago, 20 matriculates have graduated. COHS offers adults in the community 19 and older the ability to earn a fully accredited high school diploma at no cost. COHS's flexibility allows students to raise families and work while earning their degree. Students receive in-person tutoring by the Library's Project READ, as well as academic and career guidance.

Help Power the Library's Drive to Share Digital Access

The gulf between those who have reliable internet access and those who don't—called "the digital divide"—is an ongoing challenge for many Redwood City residents. **Bridging-the-Digital-Divide (BDD)** is a cornerstone initiative that RCLF has funded since 2017.

We purchase technology assets such as:



100 Wi-Fi hotspots that can be checked out for up to three weeks (just like a book). In the past few months, the Library has refreshed the supply of hotspots with 100 new devices.



More than 30 iPads that can be checked out at the Downtown Library, and Redwood Shores and Schaberg branches.



Laptops with wireless access and wired desktop PCs that can be used in the libraries for two hours a day. In the coming months, RCPL will introduce new Windows-based devices running a more robust set of software and applications than in previous devices.

Let's keep up the momentum! [Donate](#) today!



COMING SOON

Hotspots for the Branch Libraries!

RCLF is thrilled to announce a generous donation from David Cowan of Bessemer Venture Partners to purchase 20 additional Wi-Fi hotspots that will be available for checkout. This donation allows the library to expand the hotspot loan program to both Redwood Shores and Schaberg Library branches!

Once the new devices are purchased and set up, they will be ready for checkout. We are truly grateful to the David Cowan Foundation for expanding digital literacy resources in our community!

Kids Win in the Summer Learning Challenge

This summer, more than 6,000 Redwood City and Redwood Shores students committed to read and grow as part of the **Summer Learning Challenge (SLC)**. Kids who signed up received a free book when they pledged to read 20 minutes a day for 20 days.

The Library handed out an amazing **8,400 books** this summer—at schools, outreach events in parks and playgrounds, and at the Library branches. At the end of the summer those students who fulfilled their pledge received another book!

Last summer's SLC was at risk. Measure K funding was no longer available. RCLF dug deep to support the Library and raise the funds to purchase the books and keep the program operating at full capacity. Your support made this possible.

One of the SLC's standout readers was Jayce, who completed an impressive 56 reading segments. His hard work earned him a special prize: a Lego set. *"Watching Jayce dive into books this summer has been such a joy. He explored stories at all different levels, and I could see his confidence grow with each one. I know this is going to help him so much in school and beyond."* –Grandma Ruby

Programs like the Summer Learning Challenge matter because summer learning loss is real. Without access to engaging reading and enrichment, many students can fall months behind before school resumes in the fall.

Looking ahead, RCLF is committed not only to funding next year's free books for the Summer Learning Challenge, but also to supporting the internship program that engages local teens to help at Library programs, including SLC, all summer.

Donate today to invest in the future of our children and community.



Each year, Redwood City Public Library welcomes high school students as summer interns. Whether they were assisting families at events, handing out books and prizes, holding snakes during animal programs, dancing the samba, or helping kids explore robotics and coding, they embodied the spirit of service and learning.

Free Online Tutoring: Anywhere, Anytime

Want free one-on-one tutoring in Biology or the SATs? All you need is your Redwood City Public Library card!

Brainfuse HelpNow eLearning is an on-demand, online tutoring service provided by the Library and partially funded by RCLF. You can connect with a tutor,

access a writing lab, meet a project group in a virtual study room, or access college prep resources. Live tutoring and homework help is available every day 1:00 pm to 11:59 pm PDT. Other services are available 24 hours.

Brainfuse is for all ages and levels and includes features like homework help, skill building, eLearning tools, writing lab, foreign language lab, and the adult learning center for help writing resumes and cover letters, US citizenship prep and more.

During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, RCPL patrons participated in 1,948 Homework Help and Writing Lab sessions. Brainfuse services were accessed 5,430 times, including the Adult Learning Center, App usage and Skill Surfer.



Access Brainfuse from the Library website:
bit.ly/3J040jB

Please consider donating to RCLF to help support this valuable initiative.



Redwood City Library FOUNDATION

Supporting Your Library for Today and Tomorrow

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RCLF | FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

Censorship is so 1984!

On October 8, more than 500 community members came together in downtown Redwood City for an unforgettable evening of drinks, small bites, and spirited conversation. At each stop on the **4th Annual Upscale Pub Crawl**, Library Foundation representatives shared powerful facts about book bans and censorship, connecting the fun with a cause that matters.

This year's theme, ***Censorship is so 1984!***, drew inspiration from George Orwell's classic cautionary tale about the dangers of suppressing ideas. Colorful posters displayed at the pubs highlighted 17 frequently challenged books, underscoring the urgency of the issue: in 2024 alone, 2,452 titles were challenged—ten times the

annual average before 2020.

A huge thank you to the 16 pubs, 50 volunteers, and 30 sponsors

who helped make the night possible, and to the more than 500 attendees who joined us. Together, we raised more than \$45,000 to support and protect vital Library initiatives.

See photos and sponsors, and learn more about censorship at rclfdn.org/events.



Support the Makerspace with a Wish List Purchase on Giving Tuesday

**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Celebrate Giving Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 by giving back to the Library. Last year

more than 10,000 people utilized the Makerspace in the Downtown Library, and it's time to replace and upgrade some Makerspace materials and equipment. We have created a Makerspace Wish List, available now. Purchases from our Wish List will keep the

Makerspace as a free resource for our community, providing a variety of programs for all ages. Use the QR code to shop the Wish List or simply donate to RCLF. Consider donating from the Wish List in honor of someone who inspires the Maker in you!

Scan to see Wish List

