



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

Show Up For Your Library!

Our libraries face a serious challenge today. Public libraries offer everything from tools for children learning to read, to job-seeking resources for all ages, but threats to federal funding hinder libraries' abilities to maintain these essential services.

For those new to the world of libraries, the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) might not be a household name. This small but mighty agency of the US government is a critical source of funding for libraries across the country. Here in California, local public libraries received \$15.9 million in IMLS funding in the 2023-2024 fiscal year. This sum goes a long way—funding 500,000 audio and braille book purchases, summer reading programs that serve over a million Californian children, and more than 22,000 public research inquiries answered by state library staff. Wow!

Unfortunately, this crucial support is threatened. In March 2025, an executive order aiming to eliminate the agency altogether was introduced and it created a great deal of uncertainty about funding streams. This uncertainty jeopardizes some ambitious library programs. In California alone, there are over 86 million visits to public libraries annually, with over 64.5 million



*Libraries are here for us;
now we need to show up
#ForOurLibraries*

checkouts of eBooks, eAudiobooks, and eVideos. Libraries are also vital for things like providing internet access (968 California libraries are connected to high-speed broadband) and offering resources like online tutoring (over 600,000 sessions). These potential funding cuts threaten to undermine this incredible impact. We might see reduced hours, smaller collections, and cuts to those essential community programs we all rely on.

If you'd like to take action, consider donating to your public library foundation, such as the Redwood City Library Foundation. The American Library Association also suggests ways you can make a difference. Go to their website to see how you can show up for our libraries. It can take as little as 5 minutes!

www.ala.org/advocacy/show-up-for-our-libraries.



RCLF Board and Volunteers

THANK YOU *RCLF Donors!*

Thanks to your support, our local library is a vibrant community hub. Public libraries serve as important partners in our county's safety net. Well beyond books, libraries provide knowledge, empowerment, and access, and are safe spaces with friendly staff who help connect residents to local resources—all for free. Libraries are far greater than the sum of their programming. They cultivate literacy, life-long learning, and community connections.

In spite of this noble mission, libraries around the country are facing debilitating funding cuts, protests by hate groups, and even book bans. We are grateful to our donors—you truly understand the impact of the library in our community. Your support makes a brighter future possible for everyone.

For a list of 2024 RCLF donors, see www.rclfdn.org/donor-list



Wi-Fi Hotspot Initiative Wins City Council Award



Making free broadband access to underserved parts of our city is a critical element of Redwood City Library's effort to shrink the digital divide that separates broadband-haves and have-nots.

Last month, the Redwood City Council bestowed a Roots Award for the Library's Wi-Fi hotspot program which is funded by the Redwood City Library Foundation. (Hotspot checkouts are part of the Library's Bridging the Digital Divide initiative.) The Roots awards are given to programs and initiatives that contribute to the betterment of the City by strengthening neighborhoods, improving public safety, helping local businesses succeed, and ensuring opportunities for all residents to thrive.

The awards were handed out during the "State of the City" report at the March 25th council meeting. Hotspot checkouts enable residents to complete tasks many of us take for granted: doing homework, applying for a job, communicating with an employer, and purchasing goods or services.

"This is not just a convenience—it's a critical step towards digital equity," said Council member Kaia Eakin.

We can now officially say our initiatives are award-winning!

Bienvenidos Expands Service

Bienvenidos, a Library initiative funded by the Library Foundation, provides Spanish language interpretation services for English-only library programs to provide access to our Spanish-speaking community. Upward Scholars' program, ¡Habla Más!, trains native Spanish speakers who have completed English as a Second Language courses to deliver simultaneous interpretation. The library currently works with four Bienvenidos interpreters.

The Library is now utilizing the interpreters' talents to offer a new service on Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. providing [Ayuda con documentos en inglés](#), translations of English documents. The Spanish-speaking community

can drop in to get help understanding the content of their documents or help filling out forms. Bienvenidos Interpreters will not offer legal or medical advice. For participants seeking additional assistance, staff will refer customers to the [2025 San Mateo County Community Information Handbook](#) (en Español) and connect them to appropriate resources.

For more information about available programs, please visit the Library's [Bienvenidos](#) webpage.



Family Game Night at the Library

Our Family Game Night on April 1 to celebrate National Library Giving Day was a huge success! The inaugural event sold out to room capacity at 100! Thirty-three families participated in bingo games and library trivia, and solved a library-themed mystery puzzle, with all proceeds benefiting the library. Having a family-centered spring event gave us a chance to engage new library families, and was the first Foundation event for 40% of the participating families.

We are especially grateful to our event hosts, Brad Friedman and Dani Gasparini, for leading the game night and sharing their wit and enthusiasm for bingo, trivia, and mystery games! Feedback received from our exit survey revealed almost 100% satisfaction, with a common theme being fun for all ages and affordable!

Game Night was truly intergenerational with a wide variety of ages attending. We plan to repeat the event at the Redwood Shores Library on **November 12—save the date!**

Ticketing is already open: paybee.io/in-person-event/rc/f/3



SAVE THE Redwood City Public Library Summer Learning Challenge!

June 1–August 31, 2025



Every summer, over 6,000 Redwood City and Redwood Shores students commit to read and grow as part of the **Summer Learning Challenge (SLC)**. Kids who sign up receive a free book, pledge to read 20 minutes a day for 20 days, track progress, and receive another book when they have completed the program. They can build their own home libraries with books they choose, thanks to this community-powered program.

Summer learning loss is real for many kids. Without access to engaging learning, they can fall months behind. But this year, the SLC is at risk. The Redwood City Library Foundation has committed to raise **\$35,000** to provide 9,000 books and keep this program operating at full capacity.

As Youth Services Librarian Pam Evans puts it:

"Our goal throughout the summer is to inspire kids to keep reading and enjoying programs at the Library. We love going out to schools in May and giving each kid their pick of a book to get their summer reading started. Their joy is infectious."

ACT NOW to make sure every kid has the chance to keep learning this summer. Invest in the future of our kids and our community. Fundraising started in February and we need you to help get us to the finish line!

DONATE TODAY!

From student Quinn (age 9):

"I've been part of the Redwood City Summer Learning Challenge for 2 years now. I get to pick books I like, read them, and check them off my log. It's fun—and I could win a scholarship!"

From parent Colleen:

"It bridges the gap between school years. They've discovered new books and built stronger reading habits. My boys are more excited about reading—and better prepared for school."



SAVE THE DATE for our 4th Annual Upscale Pub Crawl Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for October 8th!

Last year, more than 450 people purchased tickets to the Third Annual Upscale Pub Crawl in recognition of Banned Books Week. Attendees enjoyed a lively evening while helping RCLF support the Library! They also received access to discounted drinks from 17 downtown pubs and learned about banned books from volunteers and RCLF board members at each location.

Join us in October to support downtown merchants and help fund vital Library initiatives! Supporting your local library is more important than ever! See you on Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

For early bird tickets to the 4th Annual Upscale Pub Crawl, click [here](#).



Finding Hidden
Bayland Creatures

What's New at the Redwood Shores Branch Library?

The Redwood Shores Branch Library Interpretive Center offers visitors of all ages the opportunity to learn about San Francisco Bay's ecosystem by observation and interaction. New multi-phased upgrades, partially funded by the Foundation, provide visitors a true interactive experience. Three new interactive touchscreens—*Rising Waters*, *Zero Waste Bay*, and *Water is Full of Life*—include educational information and interactive games for kids. For example, the *Zero Waste Bay* game defines the purpose of our three sorting receptacles (recycle, compost and trash) and then asks kids to drag different items to the appropriate bins.

Removable puzzle pieces allow visitors to find creatures that blend in and camouflage in their surroundings, or *Build a Bird* with heads, bodies, and legs. Kids can crawl through a mud structure and peek out of a bubble, or touch the bird placards on the windows to hear their calls. And don't miss the new Surfperch fish in the aquarium! New signage also provides more information about the Bay's ecosystem.

The upgraded Interpretive Center will inspire children of all ages to closely examine the natural world, and ask questions and seek answers about the San Francisco Bay. If you haven't visited the Interpretive Center for a while, or even if you have, enjoy the new upgrades that make it even more interesting and educational.

Trading in Your car? Donate it Instead!

Donating your car to RCLF is easy. Simply contact CARS, a non-profit vehicle donation program that partners with the Redwood City 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 RCLF 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. We have received a Tesla in the past and 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.

IN MEMORIAM: **Maureen Morley**

Sadly, the RCLF board lost one of our members last November. Maureen Morley was a board member for six years and was a valued contributor to the Finance Committee. We miss her finance reports with charts and graphs, her strict adherence to financial due process, and her donation and

assistance at the annual Pub Crawl. But most of all we miss Maureen.

From Carla Sillin, Board Treasurer:

"I learned a lot from Maureen and appreciate the guidance that she gave to the Foundation. She was also a good friend and neighbor to me."



Board News

The RCLF Board added several new members during the last year. These members bring a variety of viewpoints and expertise to help support our mission of supporting the Library.

Visit our [website](https://www.rclfdn.org) to meet our terrific new RCLF board members!



Redwood City Library
FOUNDATION

Supporting Your Library for Today and Tomorrow

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