



San José Public Library  
Foundation

# Annual Report



20  
23



## Letter from Board Chair Scott Whelton + CEO Dawn Coppin

Your gift to the San José Public Library Foundation (SJPLF) is changing lives right here in San José. Library programs supported by the Foundation allow residents to pursue their dreams by providing the tools, training, and resources they need to succeed.

You will find highlights of the many people whose lives were transformed by you throughout this report. Because of your contributions to SJPLF, you made a significant and positive difference in the lives of tens of thousands of our fellow residents.

In the following pages, you will learn about Viviana who worked tirelessly to earn her high school diploma and career certificate through Career Online High School, setting an example for her young children. You will hear about Dru, who attends school full-time while building a career and giving back to the community through the Resilience Corps program. Lastly, you will hear about Noemi, who confidently saved a child's life thanks to the skills she learned in a Pediatric First Aid class offered through the Library's Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregiving Support Network.

Gifts to the San José Public Library Foundation make a difference by supporting San José Public Library programs that **educate**, **engage**, and **empower** people in our community. Your contribution opens doors for San José residents to achieve their dreams.

We hope their stories inspire you as much as they inspire us every day. Thank you for your continued support and for investing in the future of our Library!



*Scott Whelton*  
**Scott Whelton**  
Board Chair



*Dawn Coppin*  
**Dawn Coppin**  
Chief Executive Officer

**P.S.** You may notice a number of QR codes in this report. Point your smart phone camera at the codes to view videos of your impact firsthand.



## A Message from the City Librarian

As the San José Public Library (SJPL) continues to evolve and strengthen our services, we are so fortunate to have the San José Public Library Foundation supporting us along every step of the way for the last 35 years.

In 2023, with the support and advocacy of the Foundation, SJPL: permanently added Sunday open hours, now at 17 of our 25 locations citywide; celebrated 165 Career Online High School adult graduates who now have the opportunity to build a better future for themselves and their families; and, acquired the San José Mercury News Historical Archive (1900-1985), which provides free digital access to our city's rich history, thanks to the generous support of former Library Volunteer Margaret Ma.

Now more than ever, public libraries are essential. As beacons of equity and gateways to information, libraries

connect residents to education and job skills and create spaces of opportunity for all. In San José, our libraries are committed to community learning, cultivating trust and belonging, and ensuring equitable access to ideas and knowledge, while maintaining the highest levels of accountability and engagement. Despite our critical mission, libraries and the democratic ideals they represent may easily be taken for granted.

Thank you to the Library Foundation's Executive Board, staff, corporate partners, and donors for believing in, advocating for, and boosting awareness of the power of public libraries. As we approach a new year, I am confident that the next chapter we write together will solidify the narrative of San José libraries as the vital and beloved community resources they are.

**Jill Bourne**  
San José City Librarian

## Our Mission

The San José Public Library Foundation supports educational programs and resources through the public library, schools, and community-based organizations, to create an educated, equitable, empowered and engaged community.



### Educate

SJPLF supports a variety of education and enrichment programs that serve residents of all ages, from infants to seniors, making every library a center for lifelong learning.



### Engage

SJPLF enhances the Library's role as the heart of the community, strengthening its function as a dependable and vibrant neighborhood gathering place—a trusted hub for sharing ideas, resources, and information.



### Empower

SJPLF programs envision true equity by fortifying community members with the knowledge and skills to actively participate in democracy, bolstering their ability to move along life's path or to chart a new course entirely.

## SJPLF Events

From a family literacy festival and author meetups to a legacy literacy workshop, over 1,000 San José residents attended one of our events this year.

### Author Events

Award-winning local authors joined Foundation and Library staff to explore how we Educate, Empower, and Engage residents while celebrating Black History Month, Asian-American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month.



### Kristi Yamaguchi's Family Literacy Festival

Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi joined SJPLF and Children's Discovery Museum for a family literacy festival with Grammy-award winning performers, children's author readings, and free books for children.



### Legacy Literacy Workshop

SJPLF's free Legacy Literacy Workshop featured expert financial planners who provided attendees with information about crafting an estate plan as well as planned giving. The event was so successful, we plan to host two more in 2024!



## Donor Spotlight: Ma Family

Thanks to a generous gift from Library Foundation donor Margaret Ma in honor of her mother, Susan Renzel Carter, the digital archives of the San José Mercury News from 1900 to 1985 are now available to all San José Public Library cardholders, allowing over 700,000 residents to view eight decades of local history with a click of their mouse. This digital archive not only preserves our region's history, it expands access to knowledge and brings research tools into the 21st century.

***“It’s so meaningful because it truly came out of Margaret’s experience as a volunteer, as a personal user of the library and all of the resources, and having multi-generational-deep roots in this city, in this community,”*** said San José Public Library Foundation CEO Dawn Coppin.

NBC BAY AREA  
PROUD SPOTLIGHTS  
THE LEGACY BEHIND  
THE MERCURY  
NEWS DIGITAL  
ARCHIVE



Scan here  
with your  
smartphone  
to watch the  
story!



SCAN ME



San José History  
at Your Fingertips

Available to SJPL Members

San Jose Mercury News  
1900-1985



Read the full story!

Metro Silicon Valley spread the word about the new digital archives of the San José Mercury News now available to all library cardholders.

## Epilogue Society

Leave your mark on the San José Public Library by remembering us in your final wishes. We are so grateful for the generosity and forethought of the following individuals who informed us that they have included the San José Public Library Foundation in their estate plans.

Andrew Boyle  
Rosie and Carlos Cofre  
Dawn Coppin  
Susan J. Devencenzi  
Tom & Carol Langston  
Rose Crimi Muench  
Long Hoang Nguyen  
Trang Doan Nguyen

John K. Paulson  
Viola Yuen-Yung Quach  
Terry Schmidt  
Mitchell Stuart  
Patty & Stephen Z L Tsai  
Margaret Si Xuan Wang  
Catherine Wiehe  
Patricia & Richard Wolfe

*Pat is a long-time SJPLF board member and member of the Epilogue Society. Here Pat is pictured receiving a crystal book award, honoring her 25 years of supporting San José Public Libraries.*



## SJPLF in the News

Extra! Extra! Read All About It! The San José Public Library Foundation and library programs we support were featured in local media throughout the year.



Univision News highlighted Edith who was inspired to become an educator following her experience with the Resilience Corps program.



Don't miss this story about Viviana who graduated from the Library's Career Online High School program after fleeing violence and poverty in her home country.

## Empower: Digital Equity

In the heart of the Silicon Valley, the City of San José and San José Public Library are working to close the digital divide.

SJ Access is a citywide initiative led by the Library that provides residents and students access to quality internet, laptops, and digital literacy programs and opportunities.

Through SJ Access, the Library provided:



7,137  
hotspots



2,083  
Chromebooks



120  
iPads

In addition, more than 33,000 city households have received a subsidy for home Wi-Fi through SJ Access since 2021, saving residents \$4.7 million in broadband bills.

## Digital Inclusion Fund

In April, the San José City Council selected SJPLF to administer and manage the city's Digital Inclusion Fund, a grant program that aims to close the digital divide over the next ten years by connecting 50,000 households to the internet and providing them with the digital skills needed to thrive.

Since its inception in 2020, the fund has awarded more than \$3 million to over three dozen community-based organizations to reach underserved residents in their native languages.

*"I am glad the city of San José has invested in programs so that we can learn technology since we are in the Silicon Valley. I want to thank those who made this possible since I could not pay for private classes."*

- EVA, former SJ Access Participant



## Empower: SJ Aspires

San José Aspires enables first-generation college-bound high school students in underserved neighborhoods to set goals and chart a path to academic success from 9th grade to graduation by providing a performance-based scholarship program that educates them about college and career choices, as well as individual mentorship and counseling.



1,194

total students  
enrolled in 2023



10,655

all time awards  
claimed



\$486,050

total amount  
claimed in 2023



*"My experience with San José Aspires has been nothing short of transformative...It has given me the tools to set ambitious goals and navigate the path to academic success from high school through graduation."*

**VY, SJHS '23**  
Now attending UC Berkeley

## Empower: Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregiver Support Network

The Library's Family, Friend, and Neighbor Caregiver Support Network (FFN) provides an opportunity for caregivers to learn valuable skills, network, and form social connections. The program has a strong focus on removing barriers and access to participation.

The program has supported nearly 300 highly qualified caregivers.



140

people enrolled in FFN



3,200+

collective professional  
development hours achieved  
during the program



*"In my first year in the FFN program, I went in blindly, not knowing what it would be like, and came out like a blossom. There was an incident, and a child was choking. I was so calm and confident. I knew what to do because of my Pediatric CPR/First Aid class. I felt so confident!"*

— NOEMI

## Educate: Early Education

### Wee Programs

SJPLF supports a variety of Library programs that provide equitable early education opportunities to our community so children and their caregivers have the opportunity to learn about new ideas, skills, and possibilities, as well as a safe space to explore, play, connect, and grow.

Over the year, the Library provided more than:



2,600 Wee programs



For 70,269 children and their caregivers



at all twenty-five library locations.

### New Wee PlaySpace!

SJPLF was proud to support the Alum Rock Branch Library with an interactive play area for young children to learn through open-ended play and exploration. The play space features a large lowrider car with fun treasures built into it, inter-changeable walls that can be switched from a bakery to an auto-mechanic garage, cloud wall panels, a kaleidoscope wheel, and much more. This project was made possible, in part, by the generosity of Sunlight Giving to SJPLF.



Circle Above: SJPLF CEO Dawn Coppin and City Councilmember Peter Ortiz cut the ribbon at Alum Rock Library's Wee PlaySpace opening.

## Educate: Coding5K

Coding5K programs provide access to digital literacy and education when children are not in school through high-quality coding, robotics, and computer science experiences, including workshops and summer camps.

A special focus is on the recruitment of girls and youth from under-resourced neighborhoods.

61%



Overall, **225 students** participated in the 2023 Coding5K Camp series, with **61% of all participants** self-identifying as girls/young women

3,648



K-12 grade participated in **Coding5K programs**

8



Last summer, **eight-week-long** Coding Camps were offered, three with a **focus on girls**



*"Coding isn't as hard as I thought and it's actually really fun!"*

- **NINA**, student



Scan here to see a Day in the Life of a Coding5K Camper!



## Educate: Resilience Corps Learning Pathway

Resilience Corps Learning Pathway is a jobs program for young adults designed to address economic and workforce development needs while aiding in learning recovery for K-8 grade students affected by the pandemic. Resilience Corps Associates (RCA) are hired by SJPLF and placed with after school programs across the city. The Associates earn a living wage while working with children and receiving valuable career development training.



59k+

total hours worked with students



115

participants enrolled in the 2022-2023 academic year



6,500+

students served

*"The wage itself has impacted my life by allowing me to go to school full-time, while also giving back to my community. Being an RCA is a part of making a bigger difference, and it starts with the programs we have begun to give resources for future generations."*

- DRU, Resilience Corps Associate

The program is currently funded through the Resilience Corps Initiative at the City of San José and the Californians For All Youth Jobs Corps Program.



#CaliforniansForAll  
**Youth Jobs Corps**

## Educate: SJ Learns and Tutoring Matters

SJ Learns aims to bolster academic achievement by funding promising and innovative after school programs for San José students in transitional kindergarten through third grade.

High-quality extended learning programs provide crucial academic support for struggling students in the classroom. They are especially important for students from low-income families who cannot afford fee-based alternatives.

*"The kinder program is very special to me in that it helps my son in both academics and socially. He gets to spend more time at school working on activities learned in their school day kinder class. My son loves going and looks forward to working on his lessons after school."*

- ALUM ROCK PARENT



900

students each year

84%



82%

Since 2018, **\$7.3 million** has been awarded for SJ Learns programs across **26 schools** with an average of nearly **900 students** each year. **Half of the students** are designated as English language learners.

Assessments show that **84% of program participants** grew or maintained skill level in math and **82% of students** grew or maintained skill level in English language arts.

## Tutoring Matters

Tutoring Matters provides low-income San José students in grades 4-12 with access to high-quality tutoring services. The program aims to offset the impact of learning loss and uplift children to higher levels of academic achievement. In 2023, the program provided over 1,200 hours of quality tutoring to students in need.

## Educate: Career Online High School

Career Online High School (COHS) offers adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and a career certificate online for free. Since launching in 2016, COHS has a **70% completion rate** – the highest in the nation for any such program.



Some of this year's Career Online High School Graduates!

19

adult learners graduated this year with 171 graduates overall



297

scholarships over the course of the program



## Engage: TeenHQ

Located in Downtown San José's Martin Luther King Jr. Library, TeenHQ is a space designed and designated exclusively for teens. The space provides an environment for teen creativity and social emotional skills to flourish through open access to a recording studio, a makerspace, a gaming lounge, the teen library, and a hangout space.

## ARTrepreneurs

With SJPLF support, the Library launched Teen ARTrepreneurs, a series to teach creative middle and high school students to take their passions and turn them into a small business. Students learn financial literacy skills, small business skills, and how to take their creative work to the next level.

*"Your program and what you guys do changes lives. Now after receiving my high school diploma and career certificate in childcare I recently got a pay raise and was promoted to teacher of my own class... I'm currently enrolled at SJCC pursuing a degree in early childhood education."*

-KRISTYNE



## Engage: Partners in Reading

Partners in Reading is dedicated to enriching the lives of adults to achieve their personal and professional goals through reading, writing, critical thinking, technology, life skills, and English language learning. Participants are paired with a tutor who provides them with one-on-one support.



A few of this year's adult learners at the Literacy Day Celebration!

SJPLF Board prepping bags for Partners in Reading families



In 2023

Partners in Reading served

183

adult learners and trained

134

dedicated volunteer tutors.

## Engage: Summer Learning and Branch Support



The Library's Summer Learning program encourages continued reading over the summer break to help prevent the "summer slide" effect — a loss of up to two months of academic progress.

### Read to Raise

This summer, dozens of San José readers raised nearly \$3,000 to support the library's summer learning program by participating in SJPLF's Read to Raise event. Participants were sponsored by their friends and family as they logged their reading for a chance to win cool prizes.

### Branch Support

In addition to systemwide programs, SJPLF supports each of our local neighborhood branches. The Foundation's work helps to ensure San José neighborhoods have libraries that reflect community needs and interests. With your support we can do even more!

If you're interested in supporting your local library and opportunities to have your name displayed at your neighborhood branch, please contact [info@sjplf.org](mailto:info@sjplf.org).



10,500+

registered for Summer Learning

2,332

Summer programs with

50,800

attending

Library staff hosted

87

summer lunch events at

32

sites across the city with

4,500

attending

## Advocacy



Thanks to our supporters, SJPLF successfully advocated to preserve Sunday hours as well as maintain funding for essential Library programs in the latest city budget. Amid budget tightening and looming cuts, library advocates made the case that investing in our libraries is an investment in our community.

All told, library supporters submitted more than 50 letters of support, met with all ten City Council offices, and testified at City Council budget hearings.



50

letters of support sent



10

met with all city council offices



2

testified at City Council budget hearings



City Hall, San José

## Ways to Support the Library Foundation

Visit [sjplf.org/ways-to-give/](http://sjplf.org/ways-to-give/) for more information



# 2023 Financial Snapshot



Individuals	\$1,000,377	17%
Foundation	\$1,041,008	17%
Corporate	\$592,988	10%
Government	\$2,647,000	44%
Other	\$736,473	12%
Total Revenue	\$6,017,847	100%
From Prior Year Reserves	\$450,000	
Total	\$6,467,847	

Program	\$5,013,758	78%
Management	\$955,174	15%
Fundraising	\$461,851	7%
Total Expenses	\$6,430,783	100%
Net Revenue	\$37,063	

### Balance Sheet

Assets: \$16,164,711    Liabilities: \$926,054  
 Net Assets: \$15,238,657

Numbers above are unaudited. For our most recent financial audit, please visit [sjplf.org](http://sjplf.org).

San José Public Library Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following supporters for their commitment to our libraries through gifts received in 2023.

LEADER TIER \$250K+



In memory of  
 Susan Renzel Carter

Padma & Venkat Pallela

LIBRARY TIER \$100K+



FOLIO TIER \$50K+



HARDBACK \$25K+



PAPERBACK \$10K+



BOARD BOOK \$5K+



## PICTURE BOOK \$1K+

Docusign



eBay Foundation



UC Chevron  
Owner LLC

Anonymous Donors  
ABLC Donor Pool  
Allison Ottoboni

Anna Borja  
Anne Simonson  
Caprice M. and  
Robert L. Scarborough  
Catherine Wiehe and  
Jon H. Cox  
Charles Ohiaeri  
City of San Jose District 7  
Danny McLane Jr  
David Voorhies  
Dawn Coppin  
Dennis Mignano  
Donna Leftwich  
Ella Gayle Hamlin  
Foundation  
Erica Fensom and  
David McIntosh  
Evergreen Islamic Center  
Geoffrey Stirling  
Georgiana and John Flaherty  
Hanlin Chien  
Hitesh Shah  
Jane Light

Janice W. Fox  
Jason Molenda  
Jean Ann and  
Charles Luckhardt  
Jennifer Lee  
Joan Nolen  
Joanne Ruvolo and  
Peter Hilton  
Jody & Curtis Chang  
Judy Rookstool and  
Robert Leininger  
Justin Kuykendall  
Karen Schaffer and  
Michael Ward  
Karen and Thomas  
Ransohoff  
Keri and Jay Landrum  
KooNguyen Family Giving  
Fund  
Laura Back and  
Alexei Kosut  
Leigh and Weston Schmidt  
Lis Hammel and

Jonah Alben  
Lorraine and  
Thomas J. Olson  
Lupita Garcia-Reilley  
and James Reilley  
Madalyn Radlauer  
Marco Alvarez  
Marilyn J. August  
Mary Ann and  
Joseph Ramirez  
MaryKate and  
Christopher Metzger  
Marylou Avanzino  
Matthew Sapp  
Meri Maben and Walter  
Hammon  
Michael Francini and  
Alys Milner  
Michelle Garcia Winner  
Michigan Library Association  
Mrs. and Mr. Lu  
Nan Owen and  
John Lavander

Nanci Robertson and  
Richard Mancuso  
Nicu D. Cornea  
Orit Keinan-Nahon  
Orly and Roy Eitan  
Phyllis L. Gardner  
Rebecca and Ronald Lee  
Rebecca Turner and  
Erik Soule  
Rita Karlsten  
Robert Dando  
Robert Wilson  
Ronald Hammond  
Rosie and Carlos Cofre  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
Susan J. Devencenzi  
Susan R and Felton Owens  
The Geschke Foundation  
Virginia and Raymond Lee  
Wesley Tanaka  
William H. Lundgren  
William J Ohtola

## Board of Directors

**Scott Whelton**, *Board Chair, Partner*, Ernst & Young  
**Lupita Garcia-Reilley**, *Vice Chair, Program Manager*,  
Supply Chain Operations Apple  
**Rebecca Lee**, *Secretary, Director*, Accenture Managing  
**Roy Eitan**, *Treasurer, Advisor*, Scale VC  
**Marco Alvarez**, *Software Engineer*, Intel Corporation  
**Stephanie Birondo**, *Tax Director*, Klaviyo  
**Erica Fensom** *Vice President*, Corporate Affairs, Docusign  
**Orit Keinan-Nahon**, *Global Head of Investor Relations*, HP  
**Jennifer Lee**, *AVP, Privacy Counsel* at Ares Management  
**Meri Maben**, *Commissioner*, Santa Clara County CEDAW Commission  
**Danny McLane Jr.**, *Founder & CEO*, Jamii Enterprises, Inc.  
**Charles Ohiaeri**, *Chief Fulfillment Officer*, Zazzle  
**Michelle Peacock**, *Head of Global Public Policy*, Waymo  
**Kirsten Sarginger**, *Assistant Director, Grants, Partnerships & Operations*;  
Santa Clara County Office of Education  
**Hitesh Shah**, *Sr. Principal Architect*, Adobe  
**Rebecca Turner**, *Retired Nursing Facility Administrator*  
**Pat Wolfe**, *Retired*, R.N.

## Staff

**Nicole Chitty**, *Chief Philanthropy Officer*  
**Dawn Coppin**, *Chief Executive Officer*  
**Cynthia Cruz**, *Resilience Corps, Manager*  
**Monique Garcia**, *Director of Programs & Operations*  
**Kavitha Kavuri**, *Database and Operations Manager*  
**Sam Perry**, *Annual Fund Manager*  
**Jodie Pulliam**, *Corporate Partnerships, Senior Manager*  
**Noelle Rabago Boesenberg**, *Individual Major Gifts, Senior Manager*  
**Yesenia Ramos**, *Resilience Corps, Director*

*Board receiving congressional resolution  
recognizing Resilience Corps program*



408.808.2081 | P.O. Box 611540 | San José, CA 95161



SJPLF Staff



Scan this QR code with your smartphone camera to visit our website and social media!

