



San José Public Library
Foundation

2025 Annual Report

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.

Our Vision

The San José Public Library Foundation envisions a community where everyone has equitable access to lifelong learning to reach their full potential in school, career, and life.



sjplf.org/Mission



2025 Staff Retreat



2025 Board Retreat

Our Values

- ✓ **Community**
- ✓ **Equity**
- ✓ **Innovation**
- ✓ **Collaboration**
- ✓ **Sustainability**

Thank You From SJPLF

Your belief in the power of public libraries is transforming San José, and your generosity is that belief in action. Beyond the walls of our branches, because of your support, the San José Public Library Foundation (SJPLF) is driving opportunity, equity, and connection that reaches into every corner of our diverse city.

Last year, we introduced four strategic pillars to guide our mission:

- Drive Digital Empowerment
- Enable Lifelong Learning
- Build the Workforce
- Promote Diverse Arts & Culture

This year, thanks to you, those pillars have become the foundation for continued life-changing impact.

But the true measure of our success isn't found in a list of programs—it's found in our community. It's the confidence in a student's voice at the end of a program, the joy of a family connecting at their local branch's storytime, and the renewed sense of purpose for an adult learning a new skill for the first time.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to ensure that the library is a place we can turn to, and also a resource that grows with us. We aren't just meeting the needs of today but also safeguarding the intellectual and cultural heart of San José for future generations to come.

Thank you for being the backbone of this work. We hope these snapshots of the impact in 2025 that you have made possible inspire you and remind you of the vital role you play in our community's success.

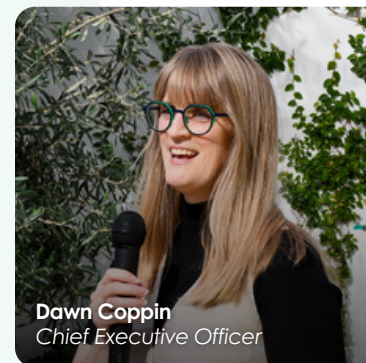
With deep gratitude,


Erica Fensom
Board Chair


Dawn Coppin
Chief Executive Officer



Erica Fensom
2026 Board Chair



Dawn Coppin
Chief Executive Officer

A Message From Our City Librarian

Access to information is a cornerstone of a strong democracy - and today, its importance has never been more critical.

In San José - a city celebrated for its innovation, diversity, and opportunity - our library stands as a trusted civic anchor. Our dedicated staff meet residents where they are, providing resources and programs that expand learning, build essential skills, and foster connections through literacy, storytelling, and community events.

Our ability to serve nearly one million residents would not be possible without the San José Public Library Foundation, our donors, advocates, and public-private partnerships. Over the past year, your support has helped thousands of residents

access technology, gain digital skills, improve literacy, advance workforce development, and achieve educational goals. At the same time, our libraries have uplifted San José's rich cultural diversity through programs, events, and thoughtfully curated multi-lingual collections.

Looking ahead, the library's role will continue to grow. Closing the digital divide, supporting lifelong learning, and preparing residents to navigate an increasingly complex information landscape remain top priorities. Through partnerships with local educational agencies and community organizations, and by investing in modern services and information access, we are creating a more resilient library system to meet the evolving needs of our community.

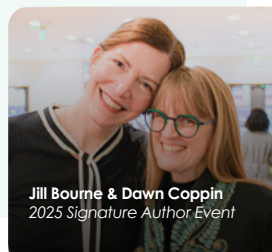
The Library Foundation's philanthropic support is critical to this work. Every investment in the San José Public Library is an investment in equity, opportunity, and the long-term vitality of our city. I am deeply grateful for your commitment to the transformative power of public libraries as beacons of hope that educate, connect, and strengthen San José.

Sincerely,



Jill Bourne

San José City Librarian



Jill Bourne & Dawn Coppin
2025 Signature Author Event

SJPLF's Focus Areas

The Library Foundation prioritizes four key areas designed to strengthen the library's impact and ensures it remains a vital community resource.



STEAM Digital Discovery Workshop

Drive Digital Empowerment



Ensuring equitable access to devices, Wi-Fi, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) education is a high priority.

Enable Lifelong Learning



Believing in the power of education to inspire curiosity, ignite passions, and expand horizons at every stage of life.

Build the Workforce



Helping individuals develop careers and enter the workforce, fostering community resilience and economic growth in San José.

Promote Diverse Arts & Culture



Supporting San José's vibrant culture through programs that foster creativity, preserve heritage, and enrich community life.

sjplf.org/Focus

Drive Digital Empowerment

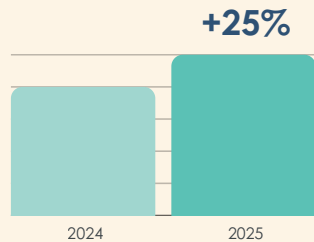
While San José is the 'Heart of Silicon Valley,' a stark digital divide leaves our underserved neighbors behind. We are bridging this gap by equipping residents of all ages with the essential digital tools and skills required to thrive in a tech-driven world.



Resilience Corps SJ Access Pathway



The SJ Access Pathway is for young adults interested in community digital empowerment services.



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we increased enrollment by 25% this year



100%
of participants identify as

- ✓ Low-income
- ✓ BIPOC
Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

Now in its second year, the pathway continues to prove that targeted investment yields powerful results. Participants are learning high-level skills in coding, machine learning, and IT — turning donor support into real-world career trajectories.

sjplf.org/DigitalEmpowerment



Manju
Artist & Sourcewise Tech Hub User

“This program has empowered me in many ways and has given me the confidence to share my artwork.”

SJPLF administers SJ Access grants, powered by the *Digital Inclusion Fund*, to community-based organizations operating Tech Hubs across San José.

These welcoming spaces feature computer labs, digital skill-building classes, assistance with affordable home internet and devices, and personalized help from bilingual staff—all free and open to the public.

Through the Tech Hub at Sourcewise, one of our partner organizations, Manju learned programs like PowerPoint and how to build an online presence for her handmade art.

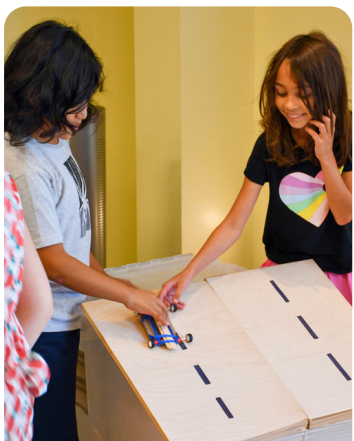
To learn more about how the *Digital Inclusion Fund* is transforming our community, visit sjplf.org/DigitalInclusion.

3,100+
residents participated in a digital skill-building workshop



Enable Lifelong Learning

We are committed to the transformative power of education, supporting learners from infancy through adulthood to ensure curiosity and growth never stop.



4.2 million

total minutes of reading were recorded from Summer Learning and Winter Reading programs

17,809

educational learning programs were offered across the 25 branches

772

students were served through the SJ Learns expanded learning program in the Fall



sjplf.org/LifelongLearning

Expanding Opportunity: The Carnegie Grant

In a landmark moment for our community, the Foundation was selected as one of only 11 library systems nationwide to receive a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. This significant investment is part of a national effort to position libraries as pillars of socioeconomic mobility.

Total Investment
\$500,000

The Vision
Bridging the opportunity gap through language and literacy.

Key Initiatives

- ✓ **Workforce ESL**
Launching a new, job-focused curriculum to build learner confidence and employability.
- ✓ **Closing the Digital Divide**
Distributing 100 computing devices to low-income participants to ensure no one is left behind in a digital-first job market.
- ✓ **College & Career Pathways**
Strengthening cross-sector partnerships to create seamless transitions from the library to higher education and stable careers.



Adult Literacy & English as a Second Language (ESL): 56 Reasons to Celebrate

With more than 100 learners on the waitlist, Adult Literacy & ESL's need for new volunteers was urgent. To bridge this gap, we turned to tutors and asked a simple question: *Why do you volunteer?*

The tutors shared how teaching doesn't just change their learners' lives—it transforms their own too.

Within two days, the program received 56 new volunteer inquiries, opening the door for dozens of new life-changing partnerships across San José.

Scan the QR code to watch the video and hear their inspiring stories.



Build the Workforce

By supporting career advancement and workforce entry, these programs strengthen San José's economic foundation and community resilience.



Resilience Corps Associates
2025 Year-End Showcase

Resilience Corps Associates (RCAs) are the bridge between community need and academic success. RCAs gain professional experience by providing the one-on-one support San José's underserved students need to thrive.

67

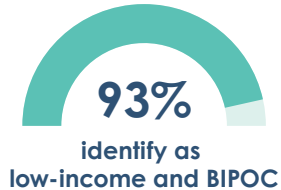
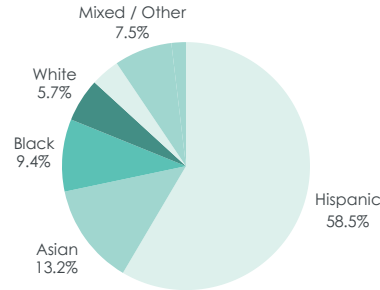
Resilience Corps Associates were hired in the 2025-26 Academic Year, earning a

\$25.50

competitive hourly wage that ensures they can live and work right in the community they serve.

380

young adults have enrolled in the program to date, with a 73% completion rate.



sjplf.org/BuildTheWorkforce

In 2025, the Career Online High School (COHS) program experienced significant growth and improved efficiency with a

60%

rise in applications.

58%

growth in enrolled students.

44%

increase in total graduates.

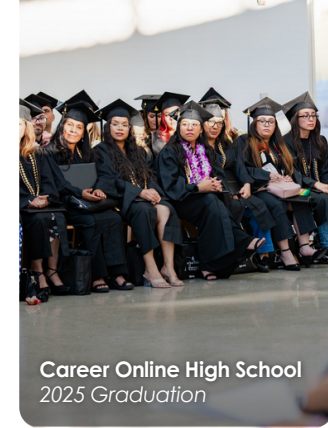
Alumni Support Impact: From Graduation to the Real-World

Thanks to Comcast's generous support, we introduced a new role dedicated to developing resources for COHS graduates. This serves as a critical bridge between graduation and next steps to ensure graduates do not complete the program without a clear, supported path forward.



Daniel Lockett
Career & College
Pathways Fellow

"This role gives me the ability to make a direct impact... by providing to others the resources and knowledge that I wish I knew about."



Career Online High School
2025 Graduation



Scan the QR code to learn more about what inspired Daniel to become a College & Career Pathways Fellow.

SJPLF Focus Areas

Promote Diverse Arts & Culture

SJPLF was proud to support San José's rich and vibrant background through 5 key community events welcoming over 2,500 guests, fostering creativity and preserving cultural heritage.

sjplf.org/DiverseArts



2025 Signature Author Event featuring Vicky Nguyen
Blanco Urban Venue, Downtown San José

Kristi Yamaguchi's 3rd Annual Family Literacy Festival
Children's Discovery Museum, Downtown San José



Banned Books & Brews
Clandestine Brewing, Downtown San José

Ways to Give

- Give Online.
- Give By Mail.
- Give Monthly.
- Give In Memory.
- Give IRAs & Equities.
- Give Donor Advised Funds.
- Give Stocks.
- Give Vehicles.

"Our family has used the library for years. It has been a vital resource for us. My daughter spent so much of her time there, not only discovering a love for reading but also using the space to do school work. She is now in college, and I truly believe the library played a role in her academic journey. I hope these resources can remain available for other families to learn and grow, just as ours did."

-Balasubramanian J.



sjplf.org/WaysToGive

Double Your Impact with Employer Matching

Many companies also match donations made by retirees or by their employee's spouse.

Check if your employer matches donations or volunteer hours at sjplf.org/EmployerMatching.

Be A Library Advocate

The Foundation works year-round to ensure our libraries remain beacons of opportunity, but we can't do it alone. By becoming a library advocate, you help protect vital funding for programs and services.

For educational resources about opportunities to advocate for important issues, subscribe to our monthly advocacy newsletter at sjplf.org/Advocate.

GIVING SPOTLIGHT

Join Our Planned Giving Epilogue Society

Our Epilogue Society honors those who create a legacy of literacy and lifelong learning by making a planned gift to the Library Foundation.

Thank You to Our Epilogue Society Members

Anonymous Donors x8	Margaret Si Xuan Wang
Andrew Boyle	Mary McLane
Catherine Ann Wiehe	Patricia & Richard Wolfe
Constance L. Graves	Rose Crimi Muench
Curtis R. Gowan	Rosie & Carlos Cofre
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Jon Cox & Catherine Wiehe	Tom & Carol Langston
Linda and Ken Kelly	Trang Doan Nguyen
Long Hoang Nguyen	Viola Yuen-Yung Quach
Lorraine B. & Michael Nunziata	

Learn more about planned giving at

sjplf.org/EpilogueSociety

2025 Financial Snapshot



Individuals	\$545,287	13%
Foundation	\$701,467	16%
Corporate	\$657,384	15%
Corporate Foundation	\$50,000	1%
Government	\$1,851,523	43%
Other	\$498,005	12%
Total Revenue	\$4,303,666	100%

Program	\$5,342,257	81%
Management	\$973,784	15%
Fundraising	\$250,942	4%
Total Expenses	\$6,566,983	100%
Utilization from Prior Year Reserves	\$2,265,000	
Net Revenue	\$1,683	

Balance Sheet	Assets: \$7,470,368
	Liabilities: \$1,123,209
	Net Assets: \$6,347,159

Numbers above are unaudited. For our most recent financial audit, please visit sjplf.org.

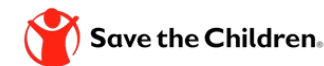
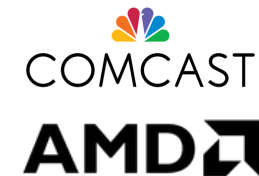
The San José Public Library Foundation is grateful to the supporters who invested in our libraries in 2025.

\$250K+

\$100K+

\$50K+

\$25K+



Michie Kimizuka

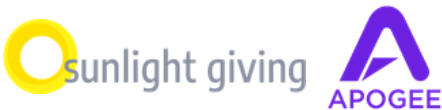
Your support is vital to us, and we want to recognize you correctly. Please let us know if you notice an error. We appreciate your patience as we work to ensure every donor is honored accurately.

\$10K+

\$5K+

\$1K+

Western Digital.



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Donna Lestwich
Ella Gayle Hamlin
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Jacquelyn Weber
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sjplf.org

