

Once you learn to read, you will be forever free. —Frederick Douglass

## Impact.

### We are now in the beginning of our second year,

and we are focused on making a positive impact on early childhood reading proficiency in Sacramento. Last year, in shaping our future, we reached out to collaborate with old and new partners because we know that bringing people and organizations together is how new approaches emerge and goals are met.

The Literacy Foundation has informally adopted a 'collective impact' model through our work to convene our literacy partners, bring the Walk 4 Literacy to our community, and measure our collective impact using the Community Literacy Map. Over the last 18 months we have partnered with the Sacramento Promise Zone, a formal 'collective impact' project of our Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), to form

the Promise Zone Literacy Initiative. We have had the honor of working closely with a dozen organizations over the years and are now leveraging these partnerships with a community-wide effort to lift our poorest neighborhoods and improve literacy rates among children who live in these neighborhoods.

Our three programmatic focus areas are already having an impact on the 4,000 kindergarten, first, and second graders in the Promise Zone. We have given each of these students five diverse high-quality books and we are supporting summer reading initiatives in their communities. Our interest in supporting the integration of evidence-based direct instruction in kindergarten through third-grade classrooms has manifested in a few ways: We have been invited to participate in Twin Rivers Unified School District's Early

im·pact \ im-'pakt \

verb

1. have a strong effect on someone or something

Childhood Education P-3 (a public-private partnership) to help advance their third-grade literacy rate and we are partnering with a handful of elementary schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District to do the same. These partnerships are the foundation of this year's plan.

Our funding strategy will continue to include direct mail, events, grants, and planned gifts. If you are or have been an annual supporter, please consider continuing your support. Having thousands of annual literacy supporters is how we create sustainability and reach our goals. As we begin our second year, our direction is clear, and your impact is tangible. **Thank you for your part in making this work possible.**

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Authors  
on the Move! 2023

Save the Date: March 11, 2023

5pm – 10pm at the Kimpton, The Sawyer, Sacramento

# SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



2901 K Street, Suite 204  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
(916) 836-3540 • [sacramentoliteracy.org](http://sacramentoliteracy.org)

## MISSION

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation's mission is to improve lives by collaborating with organizations in our community to advance literacy skills.

## VISION

Our vision is to have all children and all adults develop the literacy skills they need to fully participate in our economy and in our democracy.

## OUR GOALS

- Put diverse high-quality books in Promise Zone students' hands and homes
- Support evidence-based curriculum in classrooms and after school programs
- Expand summer reading programming and funding

## FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Deeringer, President  
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## FOUNDATION STAFF

Executive Director, April L. Javist  
Administrative Director, Jenny Winstead

The Sacramento Literacy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor.  
Tax ID #68-0029756.

## NEWSLETTER LAYOUT

T.Dogg Studios

# Sacramento County Literacy Day

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

**In 2019, Sacramento's Literacy Movement** asked the Sacramento County Supervisors, City of Sacramento, City of Rancho Cordova, City of Citrus Heights, and City of Elk Grove to sign proclamations recognizing literacy by establishing September as literacy month and September 8th as literacy day. These proclamations make it possible to keep literacy in front of our policymakers and keep working to make literacy a fundamental right of every Sacramento County citizen.



This September we will be going back to those policymaking bodies to report on our community's literacy. If you would like to volunteer to go to community meetings, we would love to have you join us. Send us an email at [info@sacramentoliteracy.org](mailto:info@sacramentoliteracy.org).

## Sacramento



2022

## ALL-AMERICA CITY AWARD: Sacramento named an All-America City!

**The National Civic League and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading** have named **Sacramento** as one of ten

city winners in its annual All-America City Award for our unique public-private collaboration aimed

at improving student literacy in Sacramento's Promise Zone. Since 1949, the All-America City Award has been given to the top ten communities across the U.S. that are leveraging civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness, and innovation to address local issues. Spearheaded by the Sacramento Literacy Foundation and the Sacramento Promise Zone, directed by Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), Sacramento's nationally recognized project – the Promise Zone Literacy Initiative – is aimed at bringing literacy interventions to the community with one-to-one early reader tutoring, summer reading programming to affordable housing communities, a GIS mapping tool that shows literacy rates at each public school, and more.

The goal of the project is to have all children in the Promise Zone reading at grade-level. Pre-pandemic, only 46% of 3rd grade students in Sacramento County were at grade-level reading and only 36% were at grade-level in the Promise Zone, an example of the disproportionate negative impact on historically marginalized communities. The winning team included: City Councilperson and Mayor Pro Tem, Eric Guerra; Executive Director, La Shelle Dozier, and Promise Zone Manager, Julius Austin, from SHRA; Executive Director, April Javist, from the Sacramento Literacy Foundation; Read On! Program Coordinator, Miranda Williams, from 916 Ink; Program Manager, Ryan Mallory, from the Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center; President and CEO, Dr. Dawnte Early, of United Way California Capitol Region; and Executive Director, Beth Southorn, from LifeSTEPS. Next, we will be to leverage the All-America City recognition into more resources for the Sacramento Community. Stay tuned.



# SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2022 Walk 4 Literacy

## The 8th annual Walk 4 Literacy

**and Walk 4 Literacy Family Festival are back!** Pre-pandemic, 46% of 3rd graders were at grade-level reading in Sacramento County and post-pandemic those rates are projected to decrease by 10-20%. Our students are in a dire situation, and we are committed to accelerating our efforts to bring attention and resources to measurable literacy outcomes.

The Walk 4 Literacy and Walk 4 Literacy Family Festival are family-friendly events featuring a four-mile walk, approximately 10,000 steps. Our route will pass three elementary schools in the Promise Zone that need our help. We will begin and end at the James McClatchy Park, where we are co-hosting the Family Literacy Festival with 916 Ink. The festival will be fun, informative, and allow everyone to connect with individuals and organizations impacting children's learning. Attendees will enjoy author readings, live entertainment, free books,

fun activities at all the booths, and local food offerings.

As in previous years, net proceeds from the Walk 4 Literacy will be distributed to children's reading and writing programs in Sacramento. Since our inception, we have given \$50,500 back to the community. This year we want to increase our reach, our sponsors, and our walkers, and broaden the community of citizens participating in Sacramento's literacy movement. Please join us to grow our message and grow our literacy community.

**Your participation is needed more than ever. Register today at [www.walk4literacy.org](http://www.walk4literacy.org)**



## Girly Drinks at Mulvaney's Kicks Off Sacramento Literacy Month

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2022



**This September we will kick off literacy month** with Girly Drinks at Mulvaney's, a fun author event featuring

Mollory O'Meara, author of *Girly Drinks: A World History of Women and Alcohol*, and Bobbin Mulvaney's B&L Women's Libations team with Mixologist Sarah Jean Fuller. This event will benefit Ag In The Classroom and the Literacy Foundation. Sacramento is leading the Farm-to-Fork movement and we are grateful for Bobbin Mulvaney, a fearless Farm-to-Fork leader, and her consistent support for literacy.

**More information can be found at [www.sacramentoliteracy.org/girly-drinks](http://www.sacramentoliteracy.org/girly-drinks).**



## MEET THE BOARD: Ahamadou Bocar

**Our 2022-23 year has begun** with Ahamadou Bocar rejoining the Foundation's Board of Directors. Ahamadou first began volunteering for the Foundation's annual audit committee in 2012. Now, ten years later, he has again graciously said "yes" and accepted our invitation to (re)join the board.

Ahamadou, an audit partner at CohnReznick, received his education in both America and Europe and holds degrees from San Jose State University and the University of Nancy in France. He has more than 28 years of audit, finance, tax, and accounting experience with public accounting and investment banking organizations. A native of Mali, West Africa, he has traveled the world through his educational and career engagements. Ahamadou brings a global perspective to inform and enhance the Foundation's efforts to serve the community and promote children's literacy. Ahamadou originally came to California to learn English, his fifth language. Now, his leadership and volunteerism will impact literacy in the capital of California. "I'm very interested in literacy and improving early child education and learning," says Ahamadou.

Join us as we welcome Ahamadou back to the Board.



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at [www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today](http://www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today).

## READING COUNCIL (\$5,000+)

SMUD

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*The James and Susan McClatchy Fund* of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation  
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Kathleen Dole White  
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Eva Viola Turner  
Marilyn Yee

## IN HONOR OF

Elijah  
Bruce Clark

## NAMED ENDOWMENTS

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David & Maxine Clark Family Fund  
Sandra & Steven Felderstein  
Indru & Pramila Kriplani Trust  
Nancy Lawrence & Gordon Klein  
Beth Mullen  
Dennis & Nancy Marks  
Lois Ann Rosenberg

*Contributions received May 9, 2022 through July 9, 2022.*



## OUR FIRST PRESIDENT: In Memory of Miles Synder

**Lester Miles Snyder, Jr. ("Miles"), 88, passed away on June 16, 2022.** A longtime Sacramento resident, he began his private law practice in 1962 where he practiced for 55 years. He was proud of the small office he ran and the quality service he provided to everyday people needing counsel. Miles' love for Sacramento and his commitment to community service was demonstrated by his leadership in forming this Foundation. In 1984 Miles stepped down from

the Friends of the Library to become the founding President of the Sacramento Public Library Foundation, now the Sacramento Literacy Foundation. Miles loved bringing his wife Sharon and his friends to *Authors on the Move* each year and was always ready to share the Foundation's history. In 2019, Miles gave our office three boxes of the Foundations early history, with minutes, project planning for the new Central Library and the Sacramento Room, and early ephemera.

As noted in public statements, to all who knew Miles, from close friends and family to those he met tangentially, he will be remembered as the epitome of inclusiveness, compassion, honesty, and generosity.

## RECURRING DONATIONS

When you give monthly or annually, you help support the Foundation's efforts to improve children's literacy in Sacramento.

Visit us at [sacramentoliteracy.org](http://sacramentoliteracy.org) to give online, or mail a check to:

**Sacramento Literacy Foundation**

PO Box 160547  
Sacramento, CA 95816

**Your support matters.**