

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

Hope.

There are many hopeful signs that 'reading for all' is gaining momentum here in Sacramento, in California, and in the United States. According to the National Assessment of Education Progress (2020), 35% of 4th graders were proficient and advanced readers in 2019 which was an increase from 28% recorded in 1992. Through brain research we have learned that the brain is wired to build a reading highway and once that highway is built, 95% of all children can achieve reading proficiency. This research, sometimes referred to as the science of reading or evidence-based education, is new in sociological terms but with 20 years on the national landscape, hundreds of educators, policymakers, parents, and advocates have joined forces to implement this science into our schools. In fact, Scarborough's Reading Rope was published in 2001 and is widely used today to explain the components needed to create a reader. Mississippi, Colorado, and Arkansas have all introduced state policy to embed evidence-based education into

every classroom, particularly kindergarten through 2nd grade.

When organizers of the California Reading Coalition announced their first conference in October, they were not expecting 400 literacy leaders to sign up. The conference made it clear that there are pockets of people like us who are working tirelessly to give all children the reading skills they need to fully function in society. California leaders are clear: reading is the single greatest equity tool we have to level the playing field.

Here in Sacramento, we have dozens of leaders including educators, policymakers, parents, advocates, and donors who are working toward literacy and who understand that the great spaces and places we have newly created in Sacramento need our entry-level workforce to be fully literate. Before COVID-19, we had climbed from 36% to 49% of students reading at grade-level but we can expect to see a decrease once standardized testing is re-instituted and new data is available. Sacramento's boots-on-the-ground leaders are undaunted and working together to build a comprehensive

hope /hoʊp/

noun

a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen.

verb

to want something to happen or be the case.

"he's hoping for an offer of compensation"

community strategy to advance our children's education.

As a Literacy Foundation, we hope we can give our entire community, you included, the support needed to create something that can advance Sacramento's economic and cultural trajectory for all time through literacy. Sacramento is a great city with so many things going for it: a diverse population, great museums, a new sports arena, healthy food, and within 100 miles we have mountains and an ocean. An investment in our children's literacy levels will allow our children wealth generation opportunities for decades to come. **Your support most definitely matters.**

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SACRAMENTO LITERACY FOUNDATION



Sacramento Literacy Foundation READER • December 2021 - January 2022

LITERACY SUCCESSES: California's Dreaming Big

State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SSPI) Tony Thurmond recently launched a campaign to ensure that every California student will learn to read by 3rd grade by the year 2026. The effort will also include a biliteracy milestone for dual-language learners. SSPI Thurmond recently announced task force co-chairs who will bring together practitioners, advocates, researchers, foundation partners, thought leaders, students, parents, and other experts to identify key strategies for advancing the campaign's goal. As part of the vision, SSPI Thurmond also called for efforts to get one million books in the hands of students and families. See this news release for further information: [SSPI to Ensure CA Students to Read by Third Grade](#) (CA Dept of Education, 2021)

On October 8, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Senator Susan Rubio's Senate Bill 488 to strengthen reading instruction. The bill will require the Commission on Teaching Credentialing (CTC) to include components of the science of reading in its teacher credentialing requirements, including phonemic awareness, explicit phonics, decoding, fluency, and comprehension. New teaching standards will be issued by September 2022 and teacher credentialing programs will need to include the new standards in their coursework to maintain accreditation. SB 488 is also a win for children with dyslexia because it requires that California dyslexic guidelines be established by 2024.

2411 Alhambra Blvd, Suite 120
Sacramento, CA 95817
(916) 836-3540 • 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

- Increase philanthropic literacy funding toward the goal of all children reading at grade-level
- Insert reading sciences into the community literacy and education systems
- Advocate for a fully literate community

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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

Authors
on the Move! 2022



We're getting excited thinking about the elegant fun we are going to have at Authors on the Move 2022! This year we debut our new name, Sacramento Literacy Foundation, and our new mission: to improve lives by collaborating with organizations in our community to advance literacy skills. In honor of our new direction, we are hosting *New York Times* bestselling debut novelist Zakiya Dalila Harris and her new book, *The Other Black Girl*. This timely debut novel brings an insider's view of the publishing industry and addresses the complexity of diverse workplace relationships with a thriller twist.

Our 20th anniversary will be black tie optional and will be held for the first time at Kimpton, The Sawyer, overlooking DOCO and the Golden 1 Center. Beth Ruyak, of Ruyak Media, has graciously agreed to emcee the evening and Councilmember Pat Hume will return as our auctioneer. Sponsor opportunities and table purchases are still available now by contacting April Javist at 916-836-3556 or by email at april@sacramentoliteracy.org. *Our COVID-19 policy mandates that guests and authors have received full COVID-19 vaccinations.* The event will happen on March 12, 2022 from 5pm – 10pm. **Let's dress up and have some fun in-person!**



Giving to the Foundation from Your IRA

If you are thinking about making a gift to the Literacy Foundation either during your lifetime or at death, consider a distribution directly from your IRA to the Foundation.

For gifts made during your lifetime, a transfer from your IRA will count toward your required minimum distribution (if you are over 72) and will be excluded from your taxable income, making it equivalent to a 100% income tax deduction. Because the distribution to the Foundation is being made directly from your IRA and not from a non-IRA source, it is not subject to the limitations relating to adjusted gross income that would otherwise apply to a charitable gift.

For gifts made at-death from your IRA, the distribution amount will be excluded from your taxable estate, and your heirs will avoid paying income tax on the gift amount, which would otherwise be taxed 100% as ordinary income to them. Your heirs will thus come out substantially ahead when you (or they) make your contribution from your IRA account.

Always consult your financial and or legal professionals when you have questions about maximizing your contribution. The Foundation is prepared to ensure your support is directed exactly in accordance with your estate plan. **Please call our office at 916-836-3540 for further assistance.**



Get Involved in Community Outreach and Give Books to Kids

In the month of October 2021, the Sacramento Literacy Foundation introduced itself to communities in Elk Grove and Sacramento by giving 300 books to children at community events. Research has shown that children who grow up with books at home tend to have higher reading comprehension skills, in addition to higher rates of academic success and future job attainment (Sikora, 2019).

Most recently we stopped by the Great Read Book Faire, organized by the Elk Grove Arts Commission, and Tahoe Park's Spook-tacular, organized by Tahoe Park Neighborhood Association, which were both great opportunities to give away free books to kids and connect with community members. **If you are interested in volunteering at outreach events that include giving books to children or are looking to donate gently used children's books, please reach out to Jenny at jenny@sacramentoliteracy.org.**



Tribute to Sheila A. Grant by April Javist

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Sheila A. Grant, a great supporter, partner, and friend of this Foundation. Sheila worked with this Foundation beginning in 2007 in her capacity as the library's graphic designer. By 2012 she was volunteering her incredible design talents to our efforts to increase literacy and helped us create our websites, our newsletter, the literacy report card, and our program logos. In 2019, when her fight with stage 4 breast cancer reemerged, she had to turn the design reins over, but her aesthetic prevails. Sheila braved a lot of medical appointments, chemotherapy, and radiation in her last two years and she did it with an incredibly positive attitude. A graveside champagne toast was held in late October at the Calvary Catholic Cemetery where her remains lie. **Sheila's partnership was an honor but her friendship and quick wit are what stay in our hearts.**

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We have our work cut out for us. Donate today at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/give-today.

READING COUNCIL (\$5,000+)

California State University,
Sacramento

DIRECTOR'S CIRCLE (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

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John & Gloria Naify

SUSTAINER (\$500 - \$999)

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Yasmin Bryant

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Rudolph R. Loncke &
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Rebecca LaVally
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Stephanie Tucker
Michele Wells

IN MEMORY OF

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Jessica Leigh Morehead
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IN HONOR OF

Paul and Heather Ikemire

NAMED ENDOWMENTS

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Contributions received September 10, 2021 through November 5, 2021.

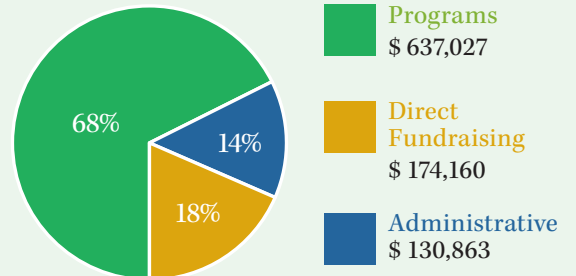
2021 Foundation Financial Overview

Each year we hire an independent auditor to make sure that donors can be confident that our financial policies and procedures meet and exceed financial requirements set forward by the IRS and the California Attorney General. For the 10th year in a row, Mann Urrutia Nelson CPAs and Associates, LLP has issued an unmodified opinion of the Foundation's financial statements.

WHERE YOUR SUPPORT WENT - BY THE NUMBERS

Foundation Projects and Programs	\$	81,849.89
Library Projects and Programs*	\$	555,176.84
Foundation Operations.....	\$	305,022.89

* Due to the negotiated settlement with the Library Authority, this Foundation distributed all current (i.e., non-endowment) donations it had received to the Library plus \$325,000 of unrestricted dollars.



ENDOWMENT PERFORMANCE (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021)	As of 7/1/2020	As of 6/30/2021	Annual Return*
Children's Literacy Endowment	\$ 838,605	\$ 1,095,391	24%
SLF Operation Endowment	\$ 59,022	\$ 72,181	22%

* Includes distributions, deposits, withdrawals, and fees. Our 990s and audited financial statements will be available on our website on February 1, 2022 at www.sacramentoliteracy.org/financial-information.

This year we transferred the Books and Materials Endowment, the Sacramento Room Endowment, and the Persian Language Endowment to the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Additionally, we transferred the Ruthie Finegold Endowment to California State University of San Jose. These endowment transfers were part of our settlement agreement with the Library Authority and will be managed in the exact same manner as they were managed by this Foundation. These transfers are not reflected in the above pie chart. These transfers are permanent.