

Dear friends,

We have always stood by the idea that libraries extend beyond the walls of a building because of the community that operates, supports, and participates in it – and as we pushed through another challenging year, we have proven just that! From serving community members with little physical contact in 2020 to finally reopening our libraries this year, your support has been incredibly instrumental! Let's welcome 2022 by celebrating the milestones we've achieved together in expanding boundless forms of learning and supporting individuals of all ages to grow together and live more fulfilling lives.

The commitment, support, and dedication of our donors, supporters, and staff made way for amazing developments for our community. We've opened new spaces for innovation, adapted our libraries to be COVID-19 safe as they reopen, named our first ever Youth Poet Laureate, and distributed books and food to our communities, among many others!

We have nothing but gratitude for you – the many individuals, businesses, foundations, and staff – for your support and efforts that made all of this possible. Your belief and support for the transformative power of the Alameda County Library keep us moving forward—thank you!

Sincerest gratitude,

Tiona Smith
Executive Director



Brighten your day with these heartwarming shoutouts from our community!

"Thank you so much for all the effort you put into creating these fun bags for our kids! Mila really enjoys them and it keeps her stimulated, as well as a fun time for us to spend 1:1 time with her."

"These are such uncertain times for all of us. Our SJS hearts SOAR when, in spite of that fact, you made room to share the true spirit of the holidays with these awesome kids and their families."

OPENING OUR LIBRARY DOORS ANEW

After a year of offering mostly virtual and contact-less services, we're happy to have safely reopened our **Albany, Castro Valley, Centerville, Dublin, Fremont Main, San Lorenzo, Niles, Irvington and Union City** branches following public health guidance. In supporting the steady transition to in-person services, we continued to offer remote services through the efforts of our hardworking Library staff and supporters! While the library experience may look a little differently now, we remain 100% committed to making sure our members have the support they need to ease into this new setting.



The long-awaited **NEWARK LIBRARY** is now open! Starting with a soft opening, mini-library model in August, the branch fully opened last October and has since been providing a space of innovation for our communities! Now, library members have almost twice the space to enjoy and new rooms—including reading spaces for different age groups, a community room with the latest AV technology, the Curiosity Shop, and expanded audiovisual collections. To honor those who made this state-of-the-art space possible, please be sure to check out the donor wall and special donor signage throughout the branch.

\$ 300,000 Raised for the new library

The ACL also adopted a new visual identity in the form of an infinity loop logo, which encapsulates what the Library means to our communities: "connection, community, equity, diversity, and inclusion."



PROMOTING LOVE OF READING AND LEARNING

ALAMEDA COUNTY READS kicked off 2021 strong with this year's chosen book, *Eat Joy*, a beautifully illustrated cookbook for the soul that inspires connection. We celebrated with our members through reading discussions, story time, Q&A sessions, and other special events inspired by the book.

2,500 Participants



SUMMER ADVENTURE: "A WORLD OF STORIES" explored the incredible stories of our diverse community. From June to August, members of all ages and backgrounds participated in 24 challenges, shared snapshots of their lives, and let their creativity shine. **3,200** Total entries

1,260 Participants **12** Winners

CONTRIBUTING TO A MORE JUST AND INCLUSIVE ALAMEDA COUNTY

Throughout 2021, we continued our work to promote **justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI)** in our programs, policies, and work culture. Cathy Quon's **"Silent No More"** exhibit at the Castro Valley Library shared the voices of the Asian community, which suffered centuries of discrimination in the US. We also introduced two new resources to our eLibrary: **HeritageHub**, a collection of U.S. obituaries and death notices that you can use for in-depth genealogical research; and **Black Life in America**, a primary source collection that offers an expansive view into centuries of black history, culture, and daily life. We held the **"Standing Up to Racism"** panel that featured Asian American leaders and activists, who shared how we as a community can create safer spaces and fight bigotry.

We also named our first ever **Youth Poet Laureate**, poet-musician **Zoe Dorado**, a junior at Castro Valley High School. Joining the fight for justice and being grounded in lived experience, this inspiring young artist works to excavate colonialism and patriarchy more thoroughly and hold space where everyone in her community can feel loved, respected, and heard. She is only the first of many talented youth that the Library/Foundation hope to sponsor in the future!

MEET ZOE DORADO
2021 ALAMEDA COUNTY YOUTH POET LAUREATE

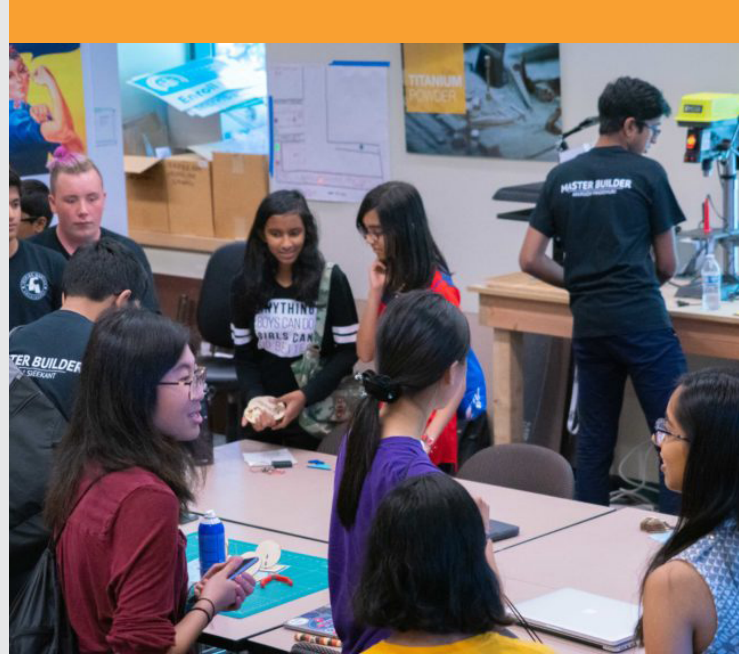


LUNCH AT THE LIBRARY (LATL) continued last year's grab-and-go approach, serving healthy packed meals and educational materials for kids and teens, as well as grocery bags with pantry essentials for adults and caregivers. We also expanded the program to cover Union City alongside San Lorenzo, thanks to our partnership with the San Lorenzo and New Haven Unified School Districts through the USDA Summer Food Service Program.

We're grateful to our funder partners for supporting LATL, such as: The Fleishacker Foundation for generously allowing us to repurpose \$5,000 of a previously awarded grant to support LATL, KKR Grants, Teichert Foundation, and the Barrios Trust. Through their support, we've further amplified the impact of great books and healthy meals to our community!

As the Library celebrated the holidays, our very own **SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICES (SJS) TEAM** took it upon themselves to spread holiday cheer by handing out gifts to our members who visited the San Lorenzo Library.

85 Members received gifts



We have been providing **English as a Second Language (ESL) Learning and Workforce Programming** to our community members! In Newark, we're working with a Spanish language instructor to help us equip adult English language learners with basic workplace conversation and computer skills, so they can better position themselves for employment. A huge shoutout to the Y&H Soda Foundation, a longtime ACL partner, for supporting our new ESL program at Newark!

10 - 20 participants each week

We successfully converted the Irvington library into a full **Makerspace**, where Fremont's diverse community of young and young-at-heart learners can apply hands-on skills through workshops high-tech equipment, including 3D printers, laser and vinyl cutters, competitive robotics, and many more!

LOOK AT WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER!

Acquired **375** new donors

Awarded **\$ 170,741** in grants

Raised **over \$ 14,470** in our Library Giving Day & Giving Tuesday fundraising campaigns



HELP US PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING FOR THE ALAMEDA COUNTY COMMUNITY.

The mission of the Alameda County Library Foundation is to provide critical support to public libraries in the Alameda County Library system, resulting in all people in our communities having access to knowledge in all of its forms. We raise revenue in support of library programs, facilities, and services that promote traditional and digital literacy, encourage educational achievement and lifelong learning, and address opportunity gaps in the communities we serve. Help us promote lifelong learning for the Alameda County community. Find out how you can support our work on <http://www.aclf.org/>.

CONTACT DETAILS

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