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### Library of Distinction: San Jose, California

"Our little library is the first residential Little Free Library in East San Jose. We are a proud bilingual Mexican American family and wanted to honor our family and ancestors with this vibrant and colorful little library.



We are celebrating our culture and bringing literacy to our community in hopes of inspiring little readers."



—Claudia Candelas,  
Little Free Library #119803  
(Artist: Moya Art Gallery and Studio)



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## Everyone Deserves a Book to Read.



This spring General Mills and Lucky Charms generously donated 6,000 books to LFL stewards and 20 Little Free Libraries to underserved communities. The libraries are being placed through our Impact Library Program, which brings brand-new books to high-need areas lacking access to reading materials.

### But we need to do more.

Two out of three children living in poverty have no books to call their own. Yet access to books continues to be the primary predictor in how well a child can read and succeed in school.

With your help, we can bring Little Free Libraries full of books to communities where books are scarce. Please give today. Any amount that is meaningful to you is needed now and greatly appreciated. Donate online at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate](http://LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate) or by using the enclosed envelope.



Taye Diggs finds a book in a Little Free Library funded by General Mills.

You can put books in kids' hands today. **Thank you for your support!**



# Little Free Library® News

Sharing Books Since 2009

Spring 2022



### Look Inside for...

- Our new app
- LFL on Jeopardy!
- 30,000 diverse books
- An uplifting library
- And more!

Our mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries.



Calling all Jeopardy and Little Free Library fans! We were recently a clue on this iconic game show—and we think you would have gotten the answer right.

Category: Free Stuff. Clue: “In 2009, Todd Bol made a model full of books in tribute to his mother, a teacher. It became this three-word concept, with more than 100,000 worldwide.”

Watch the Jeopardy clip on LFL’s YouTube channel.



## An Uplifting Library

Sarah Kooiman had wanted to start a Little Free Library for some time, but just hadn’t gotten around to it. Then the pandemic hit.

“I knew I couldn’t be the only one who looked to books for comfort, joy, encouragement, hope, knowledge, and laughter in times like this,” said Sarah. “My husband is a skilled woodworker, so it became the perfect pandemic project for both of us.”

Sarah threw an amazing grand opening celebration (balloons were a must) and the library soon became a beloved, hope-filled addition to the neighborhood.

## A Letter from Our Executive Director

Greetings to all our Little Free Library friends and advocates!

As you have probably noticed, Little Free Library launched a new logo at the beginning of this year. You might be wondering why. I want to take this opportunity to share some insight.

To begin, there are some very practical reasons for the change. Increasingly our communications channels are digital, not analog, with images depicted in pixels, not ink. As screens become smaller and interaction via mobile phones ubiquitous, we need a logo that can be recognizable in these environments. Simpler is better here.

We also need a logo that supports our evolution as an organization. The last few years have seen an expansion in our programming, with the launch of Read in Color and the growth of our Impact Library installations. We are more than a pastoral scene of a bench, tree, and Little Free Library. Our mission is to build community, inspire reading, and expand book access everywhere, even places that might not have a tree to read under—whether in urban America or somewhere across the globe. We need a design that works in multiple environments.

Our new logo pays respect to our origins, acknowledges the priority of book access, and recognizes symbolically the critical contribution our stewards play in uplifting the communities they serve. We are excited for what the future holds, both for the organization and our volunteer stewards.

Peace,

M. Greig Metzger  
Executive Director



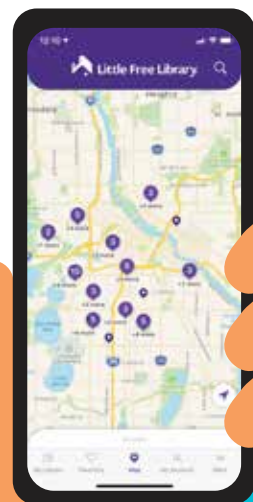
## Announcing the Little Free Library Mobile App!

Need a book to read? Use your phone to find a Little Free Library near you! We are excited to announce the Little Free Library mobile application, designed to help readers locate Little Free Library book-sharing boxes anywhere in the world.

“The LFL community has been asking for an app for a long time!” said Megan Hanson, LFL’s Senior Digital Producer. “It’s the natural next step for our popular web map. What’s so exciting is the app empowers anybody with a smartphone to easily find and share books. We really focused on creating a user-friendly map in this first version, but moving forward we aim to make the app even more interactive and fun.”

The Little Free Library app is available now for download on iOS and Android devices.

Download at  
[LittleFreeLibrary.org/app](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/app)



ON THE COVER: *Read in Color* launches in Phoenix, Arizona.



## Read in Color

The **Read in Color** initiative is diversifying Little Free Library bookshelves across the country.

Last year, we provided more than 30,000 inclusive, multicultural books and over 140 Little Free Libraries in high-impact communities like New York, Detroit, and Washington, D.C. Phoenix, pictured here, was the final Read in Color launch of 2021.

“We are thrilled to welcome the Read In Color initiative to Phoenix,” said Kim Gathers, Valley Leadership Class 41 and steward of a little library at Ageez Barbershop. “Providing diverse books to diverse communities is a step towards equitable access. My hope is that when kids and families see those that look like them in a book, it gets them excited and they want to read more.”

This year, we’re expanding the Read in Color initiative even further to amplify voices from BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized communities.

Get involved and sign the Read in Color pledge at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/read-in-color).

## Action Book Club

Our **Action Book Club** invites groups to read and discuss books, then take part in meaningful service projects together. The 2022 theme, *In Our Nature*, honors the environment, our planet, and how we connect with the world around us.

With Earth Day just around the corner, choose from great titles on our recommended reading list, including *My Friend Earth* by Patricia MacLachlan and *The Book of Hope* by Jane Goodall. Hummingbirds of Hope, a group focused on climate change, community gardens, and adult learners, recently signed up to further their work with a simple process: reading, reflection, and action.

Learn how you can start an Action Book Club at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/actionbookclub](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/actionbookclub).



Have you checked out our digital event series, **Little Free Library Unbound**? Every month this free, interactive webinar brings together LFL volunteer stewards, your favorite authors, experts, and more.

“I loved the session [on sourcing books]!” said Sallie C. “I enjoy the casual, conversational format you use by interviewing people with questions that I could see myself asking, and you also keep an eye out on the chat for additional questions to ask the guests.”

Save your (virtual) seat for our next session at [LittleFreeLibrary.org/lfl-unbound](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/lfl-unbound).



**Little Free Library**  
Unbound

## Impact Library Program

Each month, our **Impact Library Program** grants Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved neighborhoods across the United States and Canada. We recently granted a little library to Lisa Vergara, who runs the Boston-area nonprofit Storytime Crafts, promoting a mission of literacy and kindness.

“The pandemic has deepened the needs of already vulnerable communities,” says Lisa. “When the coronavirus crisis hit, forcing schools to close, routines were disrupted causing social isolation for children. In continuing our ongoing efforts to end book deserts, Storytime Crafts pivoted to installing Little Free Libraries. Storytime Crafts is honored to be selected to receive an Impact Library and we are excited for its installation this spring.”

The Impact Library Program is made possible by individual donors and partner organizations dedicated to spreading the joy and power of reading.