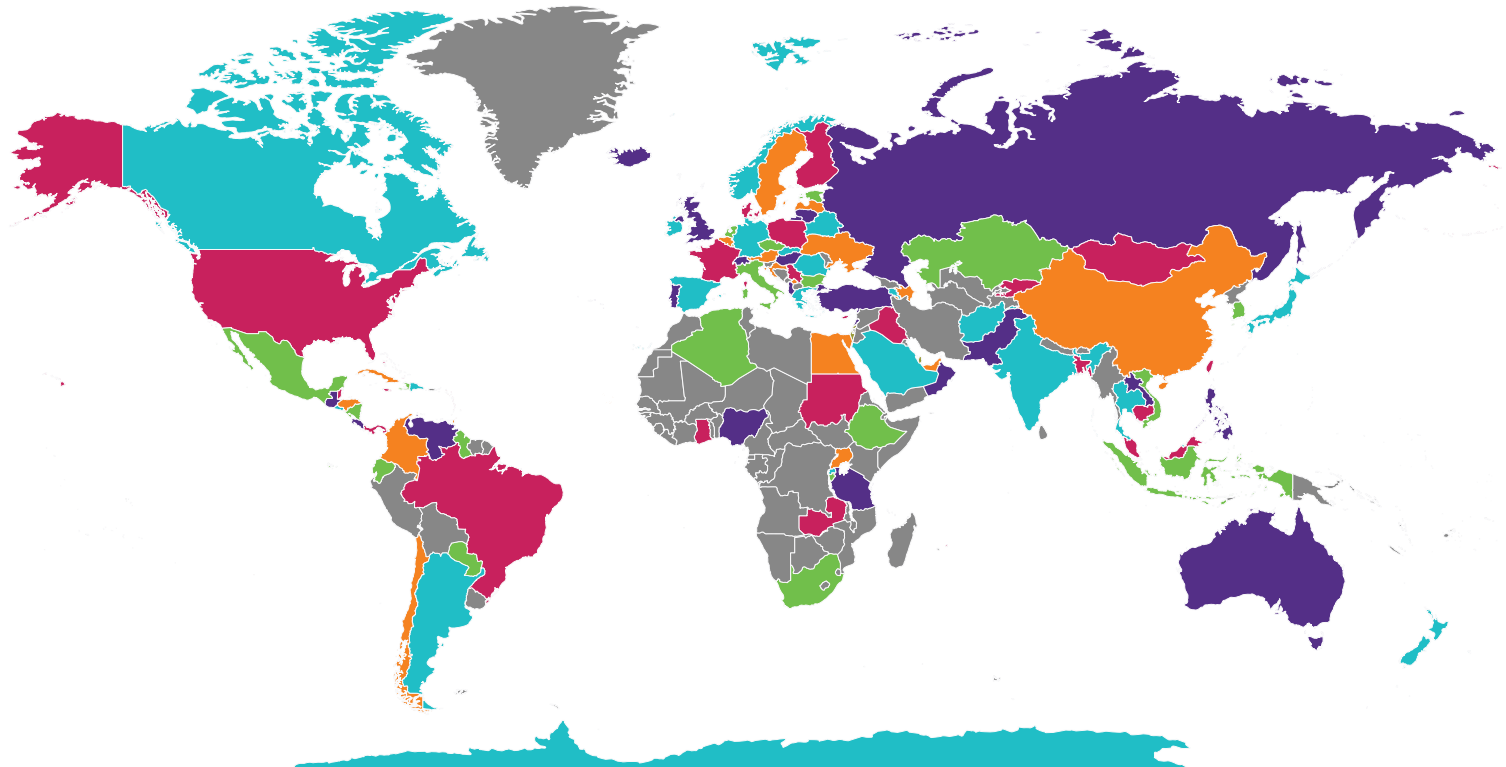




# Little Free Library®

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Global Network as of May 2022 · Afghanistan · Albania · Algeria · Antarctica · Argentina · Armenia · Azerbaijan · Aruba · Australia · Austria · Azerbaijan · Bahamas · Bahrain · Bangladesh · Barbados · Belarus · Belgium · Belize · Bermuda · Brazil · Brunei · Bulgaria · Burundi · Cabo Verde · Cambodia · Canada · Chile · China · Colombia · Costa Rica · Croatia · Cuba · Cyprus · Czech Republic · Denmark · Dominica · Dominican Republic · Ecuador · Egypt · El Salvador · Estonia · Ethiopia · Finland · France · Germany · Ghana · Greece · Grenada · Guatemala · Guyana · Haiti · Honduras · Hungary · Iceland · India · Indonesia · Iraq · Ireland · Israel · Italy · Jamaica · Japan · Kazakhstan · Kosovo · Kyrgyzstan · Laos · Latvia · Lebanon · Lithuania · Luxembourg · Malaysia · Malta · Marshall Islands · Mauritius · Mexico · Micronesia · Monaco · Mongolia · Netherlands · New Zealand · Nicaragua · Nigeria · Norway · Oman · Pakistan · Panama · Paraguay · Philippines · Poland · Portugal · Qatar · Romania · Russia · Rwanda · Saudi Arabia · Serbia · Singapore · Slovakia · Slovenia · South Africa · South Korea · Spain · St. Kitts and Nevis · St. Vincent and the Grenadines · Sudan · Sweden · Switzerland · Taiwan · Tanzania · Thailand · Trinidad and Tobago · Turkey · Tuvalu · Uganda · Ukraine · United Arab Emirates · United Kingdom · United States · Venezuela · Vietnam · Zambia

## Dear Friends of Little Free Library,

It is a challenge to distill a year's worth of activity into one theme, but in looking back at 2021, one of the key threads throughout the year was partnerships. Both existing and new.

First to our existing partners around the globe, our volunteer stewards: Thank you for what you do. For without your active partnership, Little Free Library would not have the impact that it does. Thank you for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all.



An exciting development in 2021 was the new growth in the number of institutions, companies, and nonprofit organizations we are working with. A priority for 2021 was the national expansion of our diverse

books initiative, Read in Color. Launched in the fall of 2020, by the end of 2021 the program has expanded to 10 cities, over 130 Little Free Library installations, and more than 30,000 diverse books distributed.

This doesn't happen without partners. Read in Color's success was made possible with the help of 23 community organizations like Brilliant Detroit and Reading Partners Tulsa; 14 publishing partners such as Scholastic and Harper Collins; and 20 independent booksellers such as Black Garnet Books and Birchbark Books. All working together. Key financial support was provided by foundation partners

like the Dollar General Foundation and our recent partnership with Eat. Learn. Play., Stephen and Ayesha Curry's foundation.

But it isn't just big programs like Read in Color where partners are key. As a steward benefit, Little Free Library created its online Book Directory to help facilitate the connection between book donors and stewards that needed help with books. While much work remains to be done, this resource had 50 partners participating and over 10,000 books being distributed.

We believe that 2022 will be no different as we announced in March a new, global partnership with Kiwanis International.

Collaboration is one of our key values as an organization. More can be accomplished working together and we look forward to expanding our partnership roster.

**To all, thank you for being part of our mission and for your ongoing support.**



M. Greig Metzger  
Executive Director  
Little Free Library



Anita Merina  
National Board Chair  
Little Free Library

## 2021 Highlights

- **Read in Color goes national, arriving in nine new cities for ten total**
- **Monthly digital series "Little Free Library Unbound" debuts**
- **Good Morning America introduces monthly partnership with LFL**
- **Wind River Reservation welcomes the world's 125,000th Little Free Library**
- **250 million books shared in the LFL network since 2009!**



*Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Princess Janae Todd, 8th grader at Fort Washakie School in Wyoming, with the Wind River Reservation's new Little Free Library, granted through our Impact Library Program.*



# Mission and Vision

The mission of Little Free Library 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.

Our vision is a Little Free Library in every community and a book for every reader. We believe all people are empowered when the opportunity to discover a personally relevant book to read is not limited by time, space, or privilege.

## How We Achieve Our Mission

### Provide 24/7 book access.

Little Free Libraries are open seven days a week, 24 hours a day and are freely accessible to all, removing barriers to book access.

### Foster new Little Free Library book-sharing boxes.

Little Free Library (LFL) equips, educates, and guides volunteer stewards to establish Little Free Libraries in their communities.

### Grant Little Free Libraries to high-need areas.

Through our programs, LFL grants no-cost Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved urban, suburban, rural, and Indigenous communities.

### Champion diverse books.

Through our Read in Color program, LFL makes books available representing BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other diverse voices to promote understanding, empathy, and inclusion.

### Work with key community partners.

LFL collaborates with schools, public libraries, civic organizations, businesses, and other groups to bring Little Free Libraries to their communities.



# Power of Partners



*Stephen and Ayesha Curry pose with LFL Executive Director Greig Metzger (right) and young readers at a new book-sharing box in Oakland, California. The Currys' Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation is one of Little Free Library's most recent partners.*

Little Free Library's mission to create equitable book access couldn't happen without the collaboration of organizations who share our vision. Thank you to our 2021 partners, including:

826 Boston • Art of Planting Little Free Libraries  
Brilliant Detroit • Candlewick Press • CAPI • Celadon Books  
Ciresi Walburn Foundation • Dollar General Literacy Foundation  
Everybody Wins DC • Family Literacy of Georgia  
Fathers Incorporated • Ferguson Public Library  
Ferguson Youth Initiative • Force for Positive Change  
George Kaiser Family Foundation • Good Morning America  
HarperCollins Publishers • H.E.A.L.T.H. for Youths  
Humble Bundle • Kiwanis International  
LeBron James Family Foundation • Northside Achievement Zone  
Pasadena Tournament of Roses® • Penguin Random House  
Phoenix Rotary 100 • Picture Book Summit • Read4Unity  
Reading Partners Tulsa • Salt & Straw • Scholastic  
Scholastic Canada • Schusterman Family Philanthropies  
Scotiabank • Simon & Schuster • Six Degrees  
Southwest Human Development • TEGNA Foundation  
Urban Ventures • Valley Leadership • Van Metre Companies  
Vertical Bridge • We Need Diverse Books



# Read In Color

The Read in Color® initiative brings diverse books to Little Free Libraries throughout our network in an effort to increase understanding, empathy, and inclusion. The program is enriched by the engagement of local community partners.



# 2021 Read in Color Impact

**10** Read in Color Cities | **142** Libraries Granted | **30,000+** Diverse Books Shared

## Our Values

Access



Collaboration



Equity



Respect



Transparency



*“Being able to offer both free and diverse books has been a game changer in our community. Reading engagement is rising among our families. I am amazed at how many kids I’ve seen begging their parents to allow them to take home a book.”*

—Michael Y., CentroNía, Washington, D.C.



FERGUSON, MO



KALAMAZOO, MI



TULSA, OK



WASHINGTON, D.C.



# Impact Library Program

Through LFL's Impact Library Program, we grant no-cost Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved urban, suburban, rural, and Native communities to improve book access and strengthen neighborhood bonds.

*"In the first week over 20 books were taken from the Little Free Library, after the second week 35 books were taken to homes! It has been great to know that so many families are able to enjoy books because of the Impact Library. It is clear that the LFL will be a center point in the community."*

—Anna Z., Impact Library grantee,  
Pennsauken, NJ





# Our Impact

**72%** of volunteer stewards have met more neighbors because of their Little Free Library

**77%** started a Little Free Library to share a love of reading with their community

**92%** of people say their neighborhood feels like a friendlier place because of a Little Free Library

Statistics are based on a survey of more than 2,500 Little Free Library stewards 2017–2021.



**138,000**  
Little Free Libraries



**50**  
U.S. States Served



**115**  
Countries Served



**250,000,000**  
Books Shared  
Since 2009

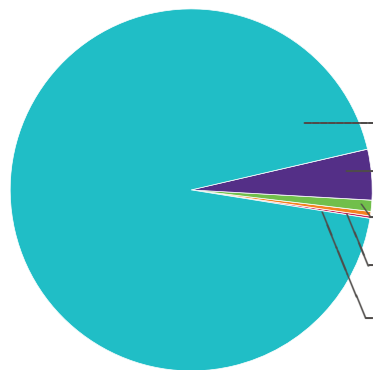


**468**  
Visits Per Library  
Each Year



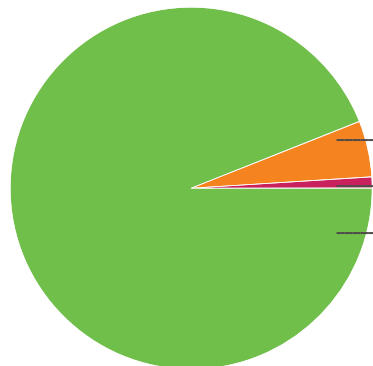
**1,550**  
Libraries  
Granted

# 2021 Financials



**2021 Total Revenue \$6,221,409**

- Earned/Program 91%
- Unrestricted Contributions 3%
- In-Kind Contributions 1%
- Restricted Contributions 4%
- Other 1%



**2021 Total Expenses \$5,009,442**

- Core Program Support 12%
- Fundraising 4%
- Programs 84%



Platinum  
Transparency  
2022

Candid.





## Board of Directors (as of May 2022)

### **Anita Merina, Board Chair**

National Education Association, Read Across America, Retired

### **Deborah Castellero, Vice Chair**

Entrepreneur and Marketing Strategist

### **Malcolm Persen, Treasurer**

President, Resolute Performance Contracting, Retired

### **Jake Adams, Secretary**

Chief Development Officer, Southwest Human Development

### **Dr. Anthony Chow**

Professor and Director, School of Information, San Jose State University

### **Marisa Creary**

Director of Partnerships, Heart of America Foundation

### **Michelle Hudgins**

Senior Vice President of Communications & Marketing, NeighborWorks America

### **Dr. Kenneth Kunz**

Founder and Director, For the Love of Literacy

### **Hannah Moore**

Chief Development Officer, The Jewish Board of Family & Children's Services

### **Anum Pervaiz**

Real Estate Counsel, Van Metre Companies

### **Noel Sackett**

GSC International Accounting Manager, The Sherwin Williams Company

### **Dr. Artika Tyner**

Founding Director, University of St. Thomas School of Law Center on Race, Leadership and Social Justice

### **Sabrina West Morris**

Teacher, South Washington County Schools; Adjunct Professor, University of St. Thomas

### **Nancy Wulkan**

Founder and Executive Director, Neighbor to Neighbor Literacy Project

### **Margaret A. Wood**

Fiber Artist and Author

## Supporting Literacy

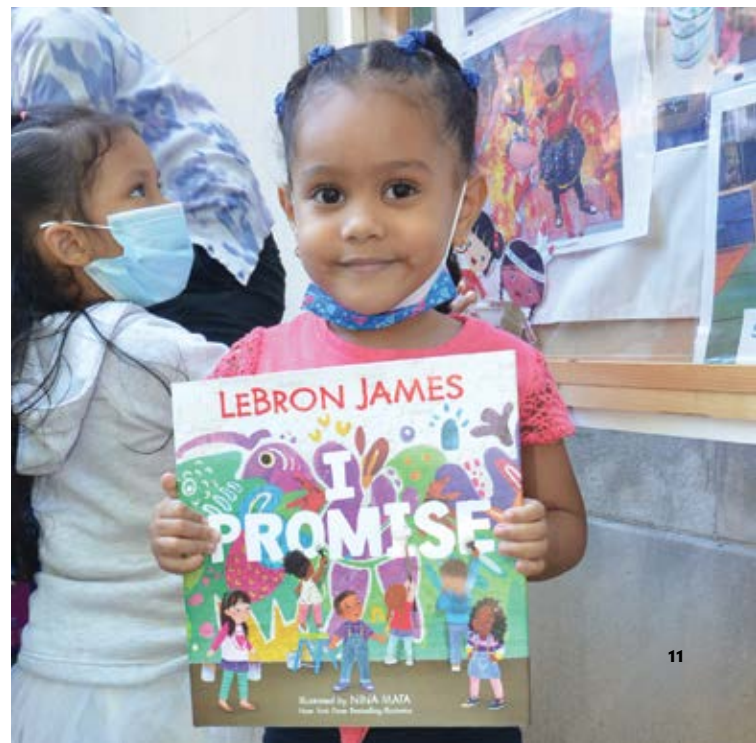
In 2021, we provided 200 grants through our Impact Library Program. But the need is much higher. More than 800 individuals and organizations applied to receive a Little Free Library and books for their community. We were able to fulfill only a quarter of those requests. Your gift to Little Free Library supports our efforts to grant books to underserved communities across the United States and Canada.

### Give Online, by Phone, or by Mail

Visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org/donate),  
call 715-690-2488,  
or mail to **Little Free Library,**  
**573 County Road A, Suite 106,**  
**Hudson, WI, 54016.**

### Other ways to give:

- Honor and Memorial Gifts
- Company Matching Donations
- Qualified Charitable Distribution
- Foundation Grants
- Corporate Partnerships





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