



Little Free Library®
Take a Book. Share a Book.

Little Free Library® News

Spring 2024



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.



Little Free Library Week 2024

Get ready for Little Free Library Week! Our second-annual celebration of all things Little Free Library will be held May 12–18. Activities include a photo contest, Little Free Library bingo, and the announcement of the Todd H. Bol Awards for Outstanding Achievement. Be sure to get the latest news about LFL Week! Sign up to receive email and text messages here: lflib.org/newsletter-signup.

A Letter from Our Executive Director

Little Free Library Friends,

One of the most rewarding aspects of our work is seeing how a Little Free Library can be the spark for greater neighborhood connectivity. A library is a localized, physical representation of the care and concern for others by others. In January, we introduced Team LFL, which provides new volunteer opportunities for individuals and organizations to support the larger network.

Little Free Library has granted and placed nearly 3,000 no-cost libraries across the U.S. and Canada to expand book access in resource-constrained communities. But in many instances, these placements can benefit from ongoing support. This is where Team LFL comes in. Perhaps it is book drives, or community events, or helping with maintenance. These are the volunteer opportunities that don't require one to be a steward but provide critical support.

Another way everyone can get involved is to make a financial contribution to our grant programs. Via our diverse book Read in Color program, and our Impact and Indigenous Library programs, we placed more than 500 libraries and distributed over 20,000 books last year. We have the same goals for 2024 and your contribution will go to support that. Please consider a donation with the enclosed envelope or online at littlefreelibrary.org/donate.

Peace,

M. Greig Metzger
Executive Director



A Gift for You

We are honored to feature artwork by Peter H. Reynolds on the cover of our spring newsletter. Peter is the author and illustrator of many best-selling children's books, including *The Dot*, *Ish*, and *Sky Color*, and he is also a Little Free Library steward. He created this illustration of a young artist painting a Little Free Library book-sharing box in recognition of International Dot Day and kindly shared it with us. We are delighted to give you a postcard featuring this joyful image. Consider sending a message to a reader you care about! Art © Peter H. Reynolds, internationaldotday.org

Join Team LFL



Calling all volunteers! Check out Little Free Library's new volunteer engagement initiative: Team LFL. Groups and individuals in the U.S. can join Team LFL to find volunteer opportunities in their area that support Little Free Library boxes and broaden access to books. From "Book Restocker" to "Little Free Library Locator" there is a volunteer role for you.

Existing LFL stewards are encouraged to request volunteer support for their libraries through

the Team LFL volunteer hub, too. Do you need help keeping your library stocked with books? Team LFL volunteers can help!

"We love how Little Free Library stewards build community through their book-sharing boxes," said LFL Community Engagement Manager Brianna Stapleton Welch. "If you've ever visited a Little Free Library and wondered how you could get involved, join Team LFL! Volunteers can connect with stewards to expand book access. Many opportunities are flexible to fit your schedule." To learn more about Team LFL, sign up to volunteer, or ask for help at your Little Free Library, visit volunteer.littlefreelibrary.org.



Read in Color

We are thrilled to introduce the **Spring 2024 Read in Color® Cohort**. Each of these worthy organizations will be granted 10 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes and \$10,000 in book support to bring the Read in Color diverse books program to their communities. Through Read in Color, we're working to increase understanding, empathy, and inclusion. Meet the grantees:

Possible Futures (New Haven, CT), a community book space where people work together to build a better, more sustainable, and socially just world.

Beyond Adornment Club (Los Angeles, CA) an organization committed to empowering Black girls by eradicating illiteracy and showcasing Black girlhood as an invaluable asset in equity-based classrooms.

United Way of Greater Niagara (Niagara County, NY), a nonprofit investing in youth programs that positively impact social, emotional, and mental development.

“We are so proud to have been chosen to be a part of this incredible group of change-makers from across the country,” said William Briggs of the United Way of Greater Niagara. “Through Read in Color, we look forward to helping our diverse community see themselves in the stories they read.”

Your Support Matters

In 2023, we granted 539 Little Free Libraries and 20,375 books through our programs, thanks to your support! Will you help us increase equitable access to books in 2024? Donate today!



Impact and Indigenous Library Programs



Every month, we grant Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved communities across the United States and Canada through our Impact Library Program. Last year, we also launched our Indigenous Library Program, which grants Little Free Libraries and books to Native American and First Nation communities. In 2024, we are striving to grant more than 500 Little Free Library packages through these two essential programs.

We recently granted an Indigenous Library package to Robb Schrimsha, who says, “The Native American Advancement Foundation is so excited and proud to have its very own Little Free Library in Gu Vo, Arizona, on the Tohono O’odham Nation! This is a great new resource and such a wonderful addition to the District—we see it being used all the time by our little learners.”



Impact Library recipient Rosario De Pasquale of Atlanta tells us, “At Montclair Elementary School, we are thrilled for being able to provide reading material to our students and their families through the Little Free Library. We are very thankful for your collaboration and generosity.”

Both the Impact Library and Indigenous Library programs are made possible by individual donors like you, as well as partner organizations dedicated to spreading the joy and power of reading. *Learn more at LittleFreeLibrary.org/impact.*

Library of Distinction: Orland Park, Illinois

It's "time" for Little Free Library's spring newsletter! We're featuring the Tuckaway Little Free Library, charter #170821, as our Library of Distinction.

"I have been wanting to set up a Little Free Library for years and am so happy that I finally took the time to do it!" said steward Krista S. "As a life-long reader, I love that my LFL allows me to share my love of reading with my community and provides a place to introduce young readers to the magic of books."



Keep in touch     

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Little Free(dom) Libraries




To commemorate Black History Month in February, we were proud to work with Visit Philadelphia on the Little Free(dom) Library initiative. Through the partnership, thirteen new Little Free Libraries were placed around Philly and stocked with 1,500 banned books by Black authors.

In March, Philly's Little Free(dom) Libraries are highlighting works written by women that have fallen under book bans, such as *Feminism Is for Everybody* by bell hooks and *Front Desk* by Kelly Yang.

Notable locations for the Little Free(dom) Libraries include the Betsy Ross House, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Independence Visitor Center, and more. Find them on the Little Free Library mobile app by searching for "Little Freedom Library" in the name field. Don't have the app? Get it here: littlefreelibrary.org/app.

Look Inside for...

- Little Free Library Week 2024
- How to Volunteer with Team LFL
- Your Donations at Work
- **A Free Gift for You!**
- And more!

