



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Margret Aldrich / 715-690-2488 x805 / [maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org](mailto:maldrich@littlefreelibrary.org)

## **Red Lake Nation College Introduces Little Free Libraries at Minneapolis Site**

*The first Native American college in a major metropolitan U.S. city aims to expand book access and build community with the book-sharing boxes*



*Sarah Barott, Karen Joy (DeJesus), and Talia Miracle at Red Lake Nation College in Minneapolis.*

**St. Paul, MN (November 13, 2024)** – The Little Free Library® (LFL) nonprofit organization was pleased to grant through its Indigenous Library Program two book-sharing boxes and a selection of culturally relevant books to Red Lake Nation College (RLNC) Minneapolis site, the first tribal college location in a major U.S. city. A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on October 25 at the college with RLNC and LFL representatives in attendance, along with Milkweed Editions staff and poet Chris La Tray.

"Red Lake Nation College is proud to be hosting a Little Free Library," said Sarah Barott, faculty member in the English department. "Literacy is such an important skill, and ensuring that the Native American community has access to high-quality books where they can see themselves reflected is an honor. We were lucky to have help from Montana's Poet Laureate Chris La Tray, who led a fantastic poetry workshop after the opening."

LFL's [Indigenous Library Program](#), which launched last year, has granted more than 100 Little Free Library packages to Native American and First Nation communities across the U.S. and Canada. The program aims to expand easy access to books, strengthen community, and inspire readers, in collaboration with Indigenous leaders and community members. Each grant recipient receives a Little Free Library book-sharing box, installation materials and a set of books that includes titles by Indigenous authors.

"Congratulations to the Red Lake Nation College on the addition of an Indigenous library to their Minneapolis location," said Talia Miracle, manager of LFL's Indigenous Library Program. "I am honored to be a part of their commitment to share culturally connected books with staff, students and visitors at the first tribal college site located in a major U.S. city."

Milkweed Editions, a Minneapolis-based publisher and neighbor of the college, donated their Indigenous-authored books to help fill RLNC's new Little Free Libraries, including *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Lost Journals of Sacajewea* by Debra Magpie Earling and *Becoming Little Shell* by Chris La Tray.

The Indigenous Library Program continues to grow, thanks to increased awareness and funding from foundation grants, sales on LFL's [online store](#) and individual donors. The program recently introduced new branding, featuring the work of local Anishinaabe artist Sarah Agaton Howes, who is from the Fond du Lac reservation in Northern Minnesota.



###

**EDITORS: Additional event images and artwork images are available.**

**ABOUT LITTLE FREE LIBRARY**

Little Free Library® (LFL) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that builds community, inspires readers and expands book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Library book-sharing boxes. There are more than 180,000 registered Little Free Libraries worldwide in all 50 states, in 121 countries and on all seven continents. Through them, over 400 million books have been shared since 2009. LFL received the 2020 World Literacy Award as well as honors from the Library of Congress, National Book Foundation and others. The organization grants Little Free Libraries full of books to underserved areas through its Impact Library and Indigenous Library programs and champions diverse books through its Read in Color initiative. To learn more, visit [LittleFreeLibrary.org](https://LittleFreeLibrary.org).

**ABOUT RED LAKE NATION COLLEGE**

Red Lake Nation College (RLNC) is a two-year tribal college with a mission to provide excellent higher education that is grounded in the Ojibwe language and culture of the Red Lake Nation, home of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians. The RLNC Minneapolis campus, an expansion that opened in the summer of 2024, is the first tribal college site in a major U.S. city.