



Impact Library Program Application Example Responses

Why is book access important at the location chosen for a Little Free Library?

Residents of this area must travel 16 to 31 miles to reach the public library. There isn't public transportation available. Our local community was proud to open the first public library branch in the State of West Virginia. Ten years ago we lost the branch when our high school was expanded. The branch library has not been reinstated although we have actively advocated its return. Losing this primary access to books and not having public transportation to reach another library has been a real downturn for our community.

We have a memorial park dedicated to a teacher in our area. We are trying to make this park accessible for all ages. We have playground equipment for young children, equipment for adults, a boardwalk for all ages, benches for seniors, it is wheelchair accessible and has equipment for special needs. I believe a little free library would add an extra level to our park having literature available and easily accessible to all users of the park, and our community as a whole.

This is a rural area with extremely limited public transportation options and many folks living at or below poverty level. We are a large population of lower income folks, as well as many families with young children where library access is very difficult. While the local library is about 6 miles away, it is up a difficult to navigate mountain road that has no public transportation or sidewalks

How do you expect this Little Free Library will change this community?

This will provide an accessible location on a busy road for local youth and all ages to have access to local and culturally relevant reading materials. This will do a small part to fill a much bigger community need for free recreational and educational materials. There are so many locals without reliable transportation who cannot access public libraries due to their great distance and limited hours, and this will play just a small role in making materials and community information available. This will also facilitate information sharing and communication within the community.

We know that one of the earliest indicators for childhood literacy is the number of books available to students in their home. We are always trying to encourage parents to read with their students but many do not have the funds to buy new and culturally relevant books with

characters that look like the students we serve. We would love to open up our little library in this area to celebrate the diversity, opportunity and education we believe is vital for all humans to be thriving members of society.

This Little Free Library will give the children and residents of Northwest Tower access to books to aid in learning and imagination. It is important for the children to have books at the site as they are not able to walk to the library due to safety issues with crossing the streets, with numerous intersections to cross.

What is your plan to ensure an ongoing book supply and maintain the library?

We intend to solicit donations from community members and intend to tap into resources in the neighborhood and beyond, including the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, local school libraries that are weeding their collections, and Brooklyn Book Bodega, which has an established program of supplying lovingly used books to Little Free Libraries.

We already have thousands of books saved from our library purges over the years that are awaiting a home. When that supply is exhausted, we have an active PTA, an outside organization called Make Way for Books and 1100 students who will love to donate books to our Little Free Library.

We frequently update our local Neighborhood Revitalization group, recruit volunteers, spread the word of mouth through social media, and our organizations newsletter. The library will be added to our website to also inform people of its existence. We are given books and have partnerships with local libraries, schools, and individuals who continually donate great books.

Why is book access important?

In 2019, Alabama introduced the Alabama Literacy Act with the aim of enhancing reading proficiency in public schools across the state. The goal is to ensure that students achieve grade-level reading proficiency by the conclusion of their third-grade year. The Literacy Act goes into effect for the 2023-2024 school year. Recognizing that reading serves as the gateway to lifelong accomplishments, it is imperative that Alabama's students are equipped with a strong foundation to embark on their journey towards success. There are no less than fifteen elementary, middle, and high schools within four miles from my address. There are students each day that pass by my house walking to and from school each day, additionally, there is a bus stop at my corner.

Our YMCA is the main resource for school age childcare during the school year and camps during the summer. We have an opportunity to reach children and their families everyday to encourage literacy. We also serve the elderly community in our area who do not have the ability to get to libraries. The location we have selected will be at a crossing point near where middle

school and high school buses drop off children and will be in high visibility to all of our members and their families.

We are a large preK-8 Title I school serving 1100 students in the southwest side of Tucson. We have a great school library, but our students lack books of their own at home. Meanwhile, we have a few well-to-do families who bring their students to our school for our exceptional dual language, sports and music programs. These well-to-do families would likely supply our Impact Library with tons of high-quality books. We have a lot of students who arrive to school early who would benefit from having a book to read, especially because we do not permit cell phones on campus.