



San José Public Library
Foundation

2024 Annual Report



Letter from Board Chair Meri Maben & CEO Dawn Coppin

Your generosity is transforming lives across San José, thanks to the power of libraries and the programs YOU help make possible. At the San José Public Library Foundation, we say, “We’re proactive partners to the Library and City of San José – bringing philanthropic power to its 25 public library locations and beyond.”

But what does “beyond” mean? It’s about extending our impact beyond library walls—into classrooms, community-based organizations, and neighborhoods across San José.

As a unique partner to the City of San José and the State of California, SJPLF raises philanthropic funds while also granting money to support vital initiatives like SJ Learns and Tutoring Matters, which strengthen academic success. It’s about piloting and growing innovative programs like the Resilience Corps Learning Pathway, which equips young professionals with career skills while addressing critical needs, and supporting efforts like the Digital Inclusion Fund, which bridges the digital divide.

All this, and yes, we still help ensure your favorite books are on the shelves and other fantastic library programs and resources are thriving.

In 2024, we deepened our commitment by introducing four new priorities: Drive Digital Empowerment, Enable Lifelong Learning, Build the Workforce, and Promote Diverse Arts & Culture. These pillars guide our work, ensuring every program and initiative is aligned making the greatest impact on our community.

Thank **YOU** for standing with us as we reimagine what’s possible for libraries and the communities they serve. Together, we’re building a brighter future for San José.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and feel deeply connected to the impact your support enables.

Gratefully,



Meri Maben
Meri Maben
Board Chair



Dawn Coppin
Dawn Coppin
Chief Executive Officer

A Message from the City Librarian

The past year has been marked by significant cultural shifts, as communities embraced life beyond the pandemic, and political and ideological differences seemed to consume the public dialog. Within this context, the San José Public Library continued to thrive, adapt, reinvent, and co-create. As I reflect on these changes and the exciting road ahead, I am struck with gratitude and the awareness that our resilience, creativity, and innovative spirit is bolstered and nourished by the work of the San José Public Library Foundation. It is truly remarkable to have such a strong partner who believes in the transformational power of libraries as much as we do.

The Foundation’s contributions continue to support critical programs that address the digital divide and enhance the educational landscape of our city. In Silicon Valley, where technology plays an essential role in the lives of all residents, our focus on providing equitable access to devices and Wi-Fi through our SJ Access initiative, as well as digital skill-building programs, has never been more important to help people learn, connect, and grow.

The Foundation’s commitment to supporting arts, culture, and literacy - whether through our seasonal reading and learning programs, which attracted more than 100,000 participants last year, or through the Teen ARTrepreneurs program that empowers young artists to turn their passions into businesses, or by inviting celebrity author and chef Martin Yan to kick-off our annual Signature Author Event - inspires creativity, uplifts literacy, and boosts community engagement in our libraries.

Looking forward together, through the successes of programs such as Career Online High School and Resilience Corps, we are positioned to build on our joint efforts to enhance educational and job-attainment outcomes for young adults and adults in San José. With continued support, we can ensure that the San José Public Library remains a place where anyone may gain access to the opportunities they need to thrive.

Thank you for your commitment to building a brighter future for San José. We are delighted to continue working alongside our Foundation to transform lives and strengthen our city through our library.

Sincerely,



Jill Bourne

Jill Bourne
San José City Librarian



Our Mission

The San José Public Library Foundation supports educational programs and resources through the public library, schools, and community-based organizations, to create an educated, equitable, empowered and engaged community.

Our Vision

The San José Public Library Foundation envisions a community where everyone has equitable access to lifelong learning to reach their full potential in school, career, and life.



Our Values

Community
Equity
Innovation
Collaboration
Sustainability

Scan to
learn more!



SJPLF's Focus Areas

SJPLF focuses on four main areas. These priorities aim to enrich the community and strengthen the library's role as a vital resource.

Drive Digital Empowerment



In the heart of Silicon Valley, ensuring equitable access to devices, Wi-Fi, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Math) education is a high priority.

Build the Workforce



These programs help individuals develop careers and facilitate new entries into the workforce, fostering community resilience and economic growth in San José.



Enable Lifelong Learning



From early childhood initiatives to adult literacy programs, we believe in the power of education to inspire curiosity, ignite passions, and expand horizons at every stage of life.

Promote Diverse Arts & Culture



Support San José's vibrant culture through diverse arts and culture programs, fostering creativity, preserving heritage, and enriching community life.

sjplf.org/Focus

Drive Digital Empowerment

Despite being “the Heart of Silicon Valley,” San José’s digital divide disproportionately affects low-income residents, leaving many without the tools and resources needed to pursue their educational and professional goals. To close this divide, we are partnering with the Library to provide opportunities for young people and adults to access tools and practice skills that are essential to living and working in the digital world.



Workshops in 3 Different Languages



Digital skill building workshops are offered in 3 different languages -- **English, Spanish, and Vietnamese** -- to ensure equitable access.

- ✓ Coding and STEAM Learning Labs for K-12 students **expose over 21,000 youth annually to the world of technology and coding**
- ✓ Residents have access to devices and connectivity at the Library, with **270,000+ hours used across 719 free public computers** (average of 22,000 hours per month)

41,000

San José households lack high-speed broadband connections at home or have unreliable internet.



25,500

additional households face digital disadvantages such as over-reliance on smartphones for internet access.

Digital Inclusion Fund

In 2023, the San José City Council selected SJPLF to administer and manage the City’s Digital Inclusion Fund, a grant program that aims to close the digital divide over the next ten years by connecting 41,000 households to the internet and providing them with the digital skills needed to thrive.



\$3 million

Since its inception in 2020, the fund has awarded more than \$3 million to over three dozen community-based organizations to reach underserved residents in their native languages.

Digital Empowerment Programs

Digital Empowerment programs provide access to digital literacy and education through high-quality coding, robotics, and computer science experiences, including workshops and Summer Learning Labs.

sjplf.org/DigitalEmpowerment



“I had to work twice as hard to get the grades to accomplish what I wanted because I only had a phone to do my homework assignments. Once I got the SJ Access Chrome Book it changed a lot of things. **I see the program being an integral part in solving the digital divide in San José.**” -Nicole, Program Participant

SJ Access

SJ Access is a citywide initiative led by the Library that provides residents and students access to quality internet, laptops, and digital literacy programs and opportunities.

33,000+

city households received a subsidy for home Wi-Fi through SJ Access since 2021, saving residents

\$4.7 million
in broadband bills



Enable Lifelong Learning

From early childhood education to adult literacy programs, we believe in the power of education to inspire curiosity, ignite passions, and expand horizons at every stage of life.



Gifts to the San José Public Library Foundation support free educational programs at our 25 branch locations. Everyone in our community, especially those with the fewest resources, should have equitable access to opportunities to reach their full potential in school, career, and in life.

sjplf.org/LifelongLearning



Early Education

SJPLF supports a variety of Library programs and materials that provide equitable early education opportunities to our community, so children and their caregivers can learn about new ideas, skills, and possibilities, as well as a safe space to explore, play, connect, and grow.

3,200+

early education programs were offered across all 25 Library locations last year, impacting

2,000+

storytimes were hosted last year by the Library with

87,300+

children and their caregivers.

64,700+

children and adult participants; providing a fun and interactive learning space complete with stories, rhymes, songs, and movement.

SJPL also provides recorded storytimes for families to play at home.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is a fun and FREE program to encourage families to read stories with their child. Data shows this helps children

- build their language skills
- contributes to their healthy development
- gives them the skills they need to succeed in school
- and develops a lifelong love of reading.

Did You Know?

80%

Almost 80% of a child's brain is developed before their third birthday, making those first 36 months the most critical time to engage in brain building activities.



Enable Lifelong Learning

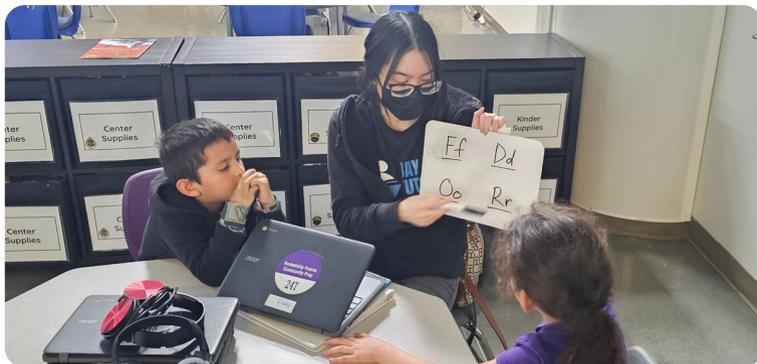
SJ Learns and Tutoring Matters

SJ Learns funds after school programs for San José students in transitional kindergarten through third grade. High-quality extended learning programs provide crucial academic support for struggling students in the classroom. They are especially important for students from low-income families who cannot afford fee-based alternatives.

Tutoring Matters provides low-income San José students in grades 4-12 with access to high-quality tutoring services. The program aims to offset the impact of learning loss and uplift children to higher levels of academic achievement.



"Since he joined the program, my son's behavior has improved in school and at home. He is more social with students and his teacher." -Alum Rock Parent



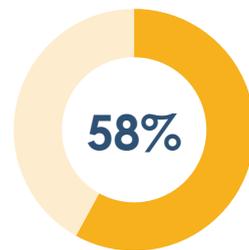
More than 1,500 students served in 2024

✓ **611 students supported in the SJ Learns program**

✓ **961 students connected with high-quality academic assistance in Tutoring Matters**

Adult Literacy & English as a Second Language (ESL)

Literacy impacts all aspects of a person's life, spanning academics, career trajectory, socio-economic status, health and more. Through one-on-one and group tutoring sessions, the Library's Adult Literacy & English as a Second Language program is dedicated to meeting adults where they are, helping them reach their English reading, writing, and speaking skill goals.



58% of adults in San José speak a language other than English at home



393 learners have participated in Adult Literacy programs to date

30% of the program is ESL focused

To date, learners have received support from

149 trained tutors who provided over

9,000+ instructional hours of support



We take reading for granted since we've been doing it most of our lives. The adults who come here want to learn how to read and improve their lives, possibly get a better job, and read to their children."

- Sue, Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutor

Build the Workforce

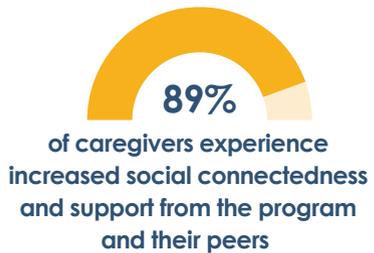
Investing in a skilled workforce not only helps individuals, it also strengthens our community and supports the City's growth and prosperity.

Family Friend and Neighbor Caregiver Support Network (FFN)



FFN connects caregivers of children five and under to learning and workforce development opportunities and a peer community. Last year, participants received more than 3,200 collective professional development hours during the program.

144 caregivers collectively supported 557 children last year



Career Online High School

Career Online High School offers adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and a career certificate online for free, an important step for participants to advance in their career or pursue higher education once they graduate.

✓ 83 students enrolled in Career Online High School last year

✓ 297 scholarships have been awarded over the course of the program

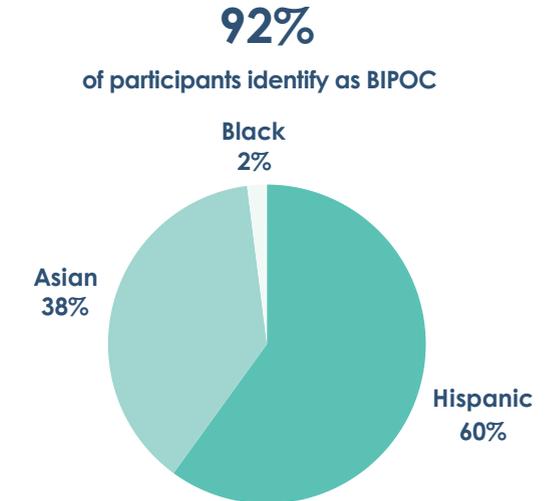
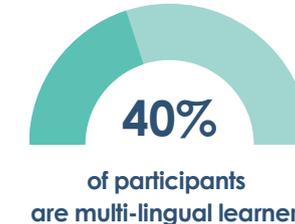
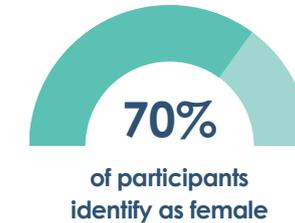
210 adult learners have completed the program to date, with an impressive 75% completion rate, the highest nationwide for a program of its kind.



2024 had the oldest graduate at age 70, showing our community there is no age limit to continuing your education and receiving your high school diploma.

Resilience Corps Learning Pathway

Resilience Corps Learning Pathway is a jobs program for young adults designed to address economic and workforce development needs while aiding in learning recovery and staffing shortages for K-8 grade students in expanded learning programs. Resilience Corps Associates are hired by SJPLF and placed with after school programs across the city. The Associates earn a living wage while working with children and receiving valuable career development training.



Promote Diverse Arts & Culture

We support arts and crafts programs, activity kits, and cultural events at Library branches, and help fund the Library's collections and events. Gifts to SJPLF help increase hands-on artistic experiences and expand access to cultural resources at the San José Public Library.

sjplf.org/DiverseArts

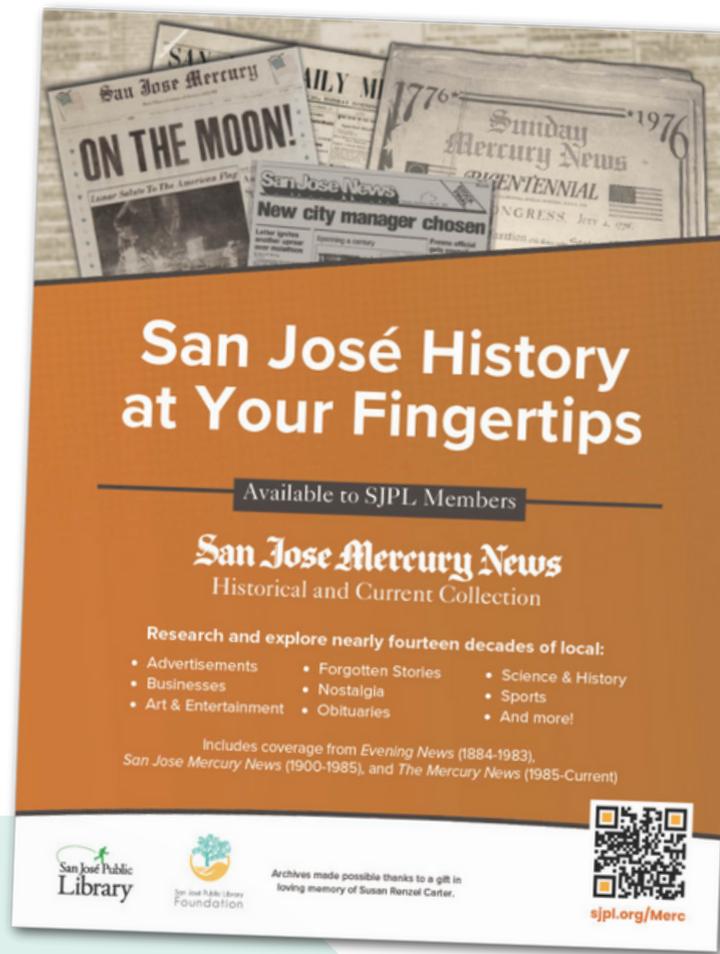
Evening News Expansion

Thanks to a generous gift in loving memory of Susan Renzel Carter, all San José Public Library cardholders can now access nearly 100 years of the evening edition of the San José Mercury News online for free with just a click of their mouse! This valuable research tool would not have been possible without our incredible donors.



If there is a student out there and this helps their research, you are investing in a future mind who might go on to do great things."

-Donor



San José History at Your Fingertips

Available to SJPL Members

San Jose Mercury News
Historical and Current Collection

Research and explore nearly fourteen decades of local:

- Advertisements
- Businesses
- Art & Entertainment
- Forgotten Stories
- Nostalgia
- Obituaries
- Science & History
- Sports
- And more!

Includes coverage from Evening News (1884-1983), San Jose Mercury News (1900-1985), and The Mercury News (1985-Current)

San José Public Library
San José Public Library Foundation

Archives made possible thanks to a gift in loving memory of Susan Renzel Carter.

sjplf.org/Merc



ARTrepreneurs

Teen ARTrepreneurs teaches creative middle and high school students to take their passions and turn them into a small business. Students learn financial literacy skills, small business skills, and how to take their creative work to the next level.

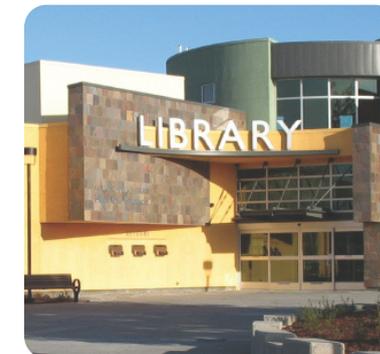


My favorite part of ARTrepreneurs is that I got to meet other people and learn new things about how to create a business"

-ARTrepreneur participant

Branch Support

In addition to systemwide programs, SJPLF supports each of our local neighborhood branches. The Foundation's work helps ensure San José's neighborhoods have libraries that reflect community needs and interests. With your support, we can do even more! If you are interested in opportunities to have your name displayed at your local library, contact development@sjplf.org.



Estate Planning for Everyone

We hosted two estate planning workshops in 2024, providing dozens of attendees with important resources and strategies.



Save The Date!

Join us at our next workshop on
Tuesday, June 3rd at
Cambrian Branch Library
1780 Hillsdale Ave, San Jose, CA 95124



sjplf.org/EstatePlanning



Visit sjplf.org/FreeWill to create your legal will or revocable living trust today!

Advocacy

Our advocacy committee has been hard at work championing and defending San José's award-winning public library system. From connecting with elected officials and tracking policy proposals to sharing important updates through our new advocacy newsletter, we are dedicated to keeping our public libraries strong.

Scan the QR code to sign up for our advocacy newsletter and learn how you can make your voice heard.



sjplf.org/Advocate

2024 Highlights

- ✓ We successfully preserved Sunday hours amid proposed budget cuts
- ✓ In partnership with the Library, we successfully eliminated late fines in San José!
- ✓ Our team met 1 on 1 with the majority of San José City Councilmembers, Mayor Mahan, one County Supervisor, and one State Assemblymember to discuss library-related issues.



FREE!

ESTATE PLANNING FOR EVERYONE
TUESDAY, JUNE 3RD, 2025 • CAMBRIAN BRANCH LIBRARY


Marisa Marlinton
Estate Planning Attorney,
Berliner Cohen


Xiomara Vielman
Financial Advisor,
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Rosie Cofre
SJPLF Epilogue
Society Member

By remembering SJPLF in your estate plans, you'll ensure a lasting impact on our libraries for years to come.

Signature Author Event

featuring

Chef Martin Yan

Our inaugural signature author event raised nearly \$100,000 for San José Public Library programs! Selling out a month before the event, we hosted more than 250 people for the lunch, which featured a live cooking demonstration by world-famous chef and author Martin Yan as well as a five-course meal paired with premium wine. Scan the QR code to subscribe to our newsletter so you don't miss our 2025 Signature Author Event.



KRISTI YAMAGUCHI'S FAMILY LITERACY FESTIVAL



More than 1,500 people came to the Children's Discovery Museum for the second annual Family Literacy Festival.

A collaboration between Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation, the San José Public Library Foundation, and Children's Discovery Museum, the event featured performances by **Disney's Choo Choo Soul** and **Stanford Taiko**. Special thanks to our sponsors, celebrity authors and readers including **Kristi Yamaguchi** and **Mayor Matt Mahan** for an exceptional day.



Ways to Support the Library Foundation

Visit sjplf.org/WaysToGive or scan the QR code to learn more.



Become a Page Turner

Do you want your gift to have a lasting impact on our libraries? By becoming a page turner—what we call our monthly donors—you'll be part of a dedicated community of supporters who believe in creating positive, lasting change.

Every contribution, no matter the size, adds up to a powerful impact. Plus, you'll enjoy the peace of mind knowing your gift makes a difference every month, year-round.

sjplf.org/PageTurner



The Library has always been part of my life. When I first came to the U.S. for graduate study, I would walk to the nearby public library and spend hours there during the weekends. Later, we would take our son to many libraries for activities, reading stories and making friends. Our affinity to the Library has passed on to my son who would visit public libraries when he travels and now, he takes his kids to libraries. The Library plays an important part in our lives and will continue for millions of people."

- Brian, SJPLF Page Turner

2024 Financial Snapshot



Individuals	\$597,237	9%
Foundation	\$303,391	5%
Corporate	\$709,470	11%
Corporate Foundation	\$50,000	1%
Government	\$3,741,120	65%
Other	\$557,213	9%
Total Revenue	\$5,958,431	100%



Program	\$11,619,995	89%
Management	\$930,492	7%
Fundraising	\$489,371	4%
Total Expenses	\$13,039,859	100%
Utilization from Prior Year Reserves	\$7,250,000	
Net Revenue	\$168,572	

Balance Sheet	Assets: \$9,555,349
	Liabilities: \$944,874
	Net Assets: \$8,610,476

Numbers above are unaudited. For our most recent financial audit, please visit sjplf.org.

San José Public Library Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following supporters for their commitment to our libraries through gifts received in 2024.

\$250K+



\$100K+



\$50K+



\$25K+



The PwC Foundation

Marguerite Casey Foundation
Hetal Chandaria and Hifesh Shah

\$10K+



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\$5K+



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\$2.5K+



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\$1K+



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Library
Foundation
Staff!

sjplf.org



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