

ACCESS BOOKS BAY AREA



ANNUAL REPORT 2019





LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

In 2019 support for our work poured in from returning and new sources, from new corporate and community sponsors to new supporters donating their time, money, and expertise to our work. It was an exciting year of building a shared community around our mission of bridging the literacy gap in the Bay Area.

This year we worked closely with two Bay Area school districts and three schools to get as many great books into the hands of kids as possible, in the communities where access to great books is the most limited. We persevered despite layoffs of library staff and threats of school closures. We also worked hard this year to spread the word about our work to a

wider audience in the Bay Area through appearances at book festivals and direct calls to schools, with gratifying results -- we now go in to 2020 with applications from four deserving Bay Area schools in communities we have not previously served. We look forward to building even more awareness in The Bay of how great school libraries can change lives!

AMANDA COLLINS

*Access Books Bay Area
founder & executive director*

WHO WE ARE

The 2019 Access Books Bay Area Board of Directors



Amanda Collins, Exec. Director
Access Books Bay Area, Palo Alto USD



Alison Guan, Secretary
Community Volunteer



Linda Forrester
Community Volunteer



Dena Seki, Treasurer
Wells Fargo



David Wohlwend
Modsquad

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to level the literacy playing field for students living in poverty by providing high quality, high-interest, culturally relevant books, and a transformed library space that invites students to spend time and read.

We believe a quality school library can change a child's life. Access Books Bay Area works to remediate the lack of funding for school libraries in California by providing books, furnishings, facility upgrades, and the coaching of a credentialed school librarian to schools where approximately 90 percent of students live at or below the poverty line. We also partner with local service organizations to improve classroom libraries with donated books.

#BooksChangeLives

2019 PROGRAMS



PAINTER ELEMENTARY -- JANUARY 2019

Ben Painter Elementary School is a K-5 school located in East San Jose, and is part of the Alum Rock School District. The school serves 351 students and their families, 100% of whom are living at or below the poverty line, 70% of whom are Latino, and 52% of whom are English Language Learners.

When we stepped into this library for the first time, nearly every surface was covered in piles of books that had been taken off the shelf and simply left to gather dust. The collection was tattered and out of date, the space crowded and hard to navigate.

Access Books Bay Area purchased over 700 brand new, high interest, culturally relevant new books for the school library, and worked with the school administration to radically rearrange the library into a more open, inviting space. JLS Middle School in Palo Alto sponsored the book drive for the school, collecting and donating 1,937 gently used books for the classroom libraries. We painted colorful murals on the library walls, and purchased new reading furniture, floor cushions, a new reading rug, and a new teacher chair for the library.



"The new books are engaging, creative, meaningful for the 21st century student, and full of wonderful colors and graphics to catch the student eye."

- George Kleidon, principal



HUBBARD ELEMENTARY -- SEPTEMBER 2019

OS Hubbard Elementary is a K-8 school located in East San Jose, also in the Alum Rock School District. The school serves 640 students and their families, 93% of whom are living at or below the poverty line, 88% of whom are Latino, and 37% of whom are English Language Learners.

One of the first things we noticed about Hubbard's library was that although serving students in grades K-8, it had very few books for older readers, and no designated area for books for older students. There was no comfortable place to sit down and read a book, and just a handful of graphic novels.

With the help of Cannon Kissane and his supporters, Access Books Bay Area purchased nearly 900 brand new, high interest, culturally relevant new books for the school library. This included a new middle school level collection, a wide variety of graphic novels, and books in Spanish for younger readers. Greene Middle School in Palo Alto sponsored the book drive for this school, collecting and donating 2,470 gently used books for the classroom libraries. We painted murals inside and outside of the library, and purchased a new sofa and loveseat and a colorful reading rug for the library.



"Reading is an amazing thing! Having a library where students can find books that they're interested in is really important. I appreciate the work Access Books did with our school. Not only do we have an amazing library, but we have an area where our older students can participate in buddy reading and share their love of reading with younger kids. I love hearing kids talk with each other and share their love of the stories they read with their peers!"

- Jonathan Natividad, principal



LOS ROBLES-RONALD MCNAIR ACADEMY -- DEC 2019 & JAN 2020

Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy is a TK-5 school featuring a Spanish-English dual language immersion program located in the Ravenswood City School District of East Palo Alto. The school serves 313 students and their families, 93% of whom are living at or below the poverty line. All ordering and preplanning for this project was completed in 2019, but due to declining enrollment in the district the board decided to close two schools, and so the project day was postponed until January 2020 -- until after we could be certain that Los Robles would not be one of the schools closing.

Access Books Bay Area purchased nearly 1,000 brand new, high interest, culturally relevant new books for the school library along with colorful and comfortable child-sized furniture and a teacher chair. Over 2400 gently used books were collected for the classrooms through a variety of partners including the Young Men's Service League Silicon Valley, Maia Drasin and the book club of Campolindo High School, Palo Alto Girl Scout Troop 61643, Escondido Elementary in Palo Alto, and the Palo Alto High School's Youth Community Service organization. On the service project day 72 volunteers painted murals, and processed and sorted the new and used books.



"The books are high quality and high interest."

- Alex Quezada, principal

WHAT'S NEXT?

EXPAND OUR REACH AND CAPABILITIES



Access Books Bay Area will work in the coming year to further expand our service area to include new districts and qualifying schools. We will accomplish this by increasing marketing and direct outreach, including local book festivals and events when possible.

In order to accommodate a greater number of school applications coming in, we will also need to increase our funding base. We plan to hire a part-time grant writer, as well as solidifying our organizational structure by actively recruiting new members of the board, and by including a paid staff member.

FOLLOWING UP WITH PROJECT SCHOOL PARTNERS

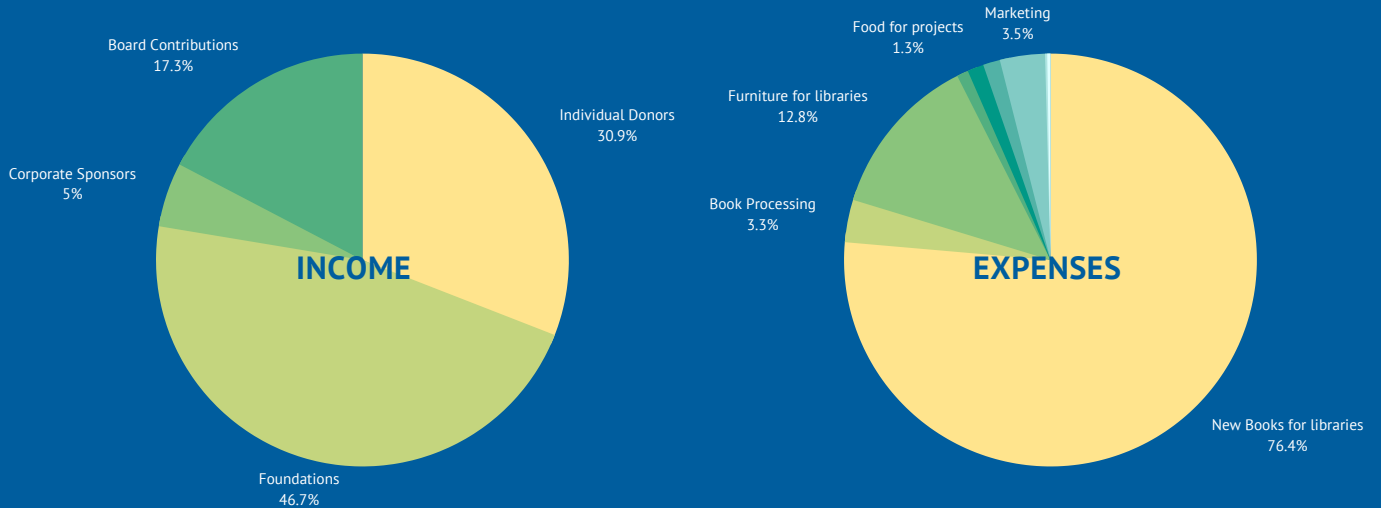
In 2020 Access Books Bay Area will revisit our project school partners to follow up and collect statistics on the impact of our library refurbishments.

We are also always looking for ways to continue connecting the students at our project sites to reading. In January 2020 we brought graphic novelists James Parks and Ben Costa, authors of the *Rickety Stitch* graphic novels, for a visit to Hubbard elementary, site of one of our 2019 projects, and our donors provided 25 sets of their books to the students at the school, which were raffled off at the event.



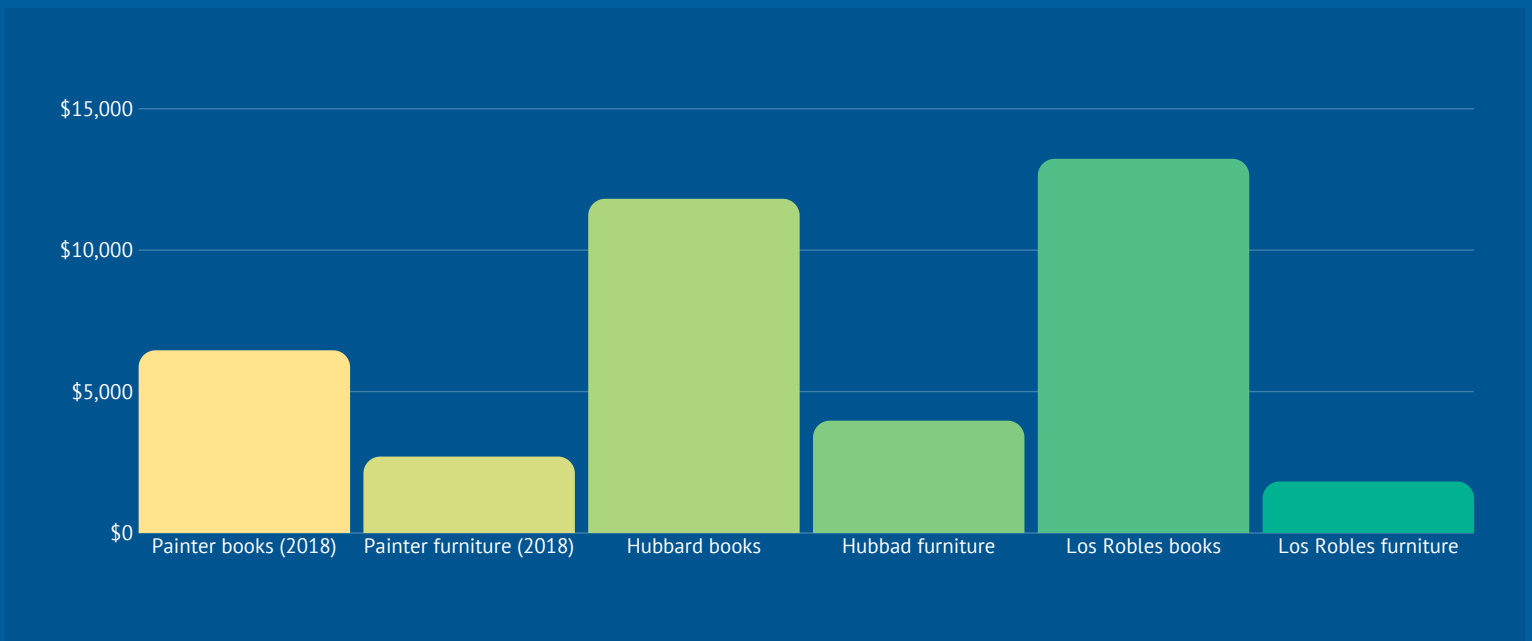
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Access Books Bay Area income in 2019 totaled approximately \$39,000, not including an additional \$17,000 received at the end of 2019, but earmarked for 2020 projects. \$11,357 rolled over from 2018. View our 2019 [Form 990](#) and [Schedule B](#) here.



INCOME & EXPENSES

Above Left: Percentage of Access Books Bay Area income by category.
 Above Right: Percentage of Access Books Bay Area expenses by category.
 Below: Amount spent on books & furniture for each school project.



THANK YOU SPONSORS!

We are so grateful to all of the wonderful organizations and companies that have supported our work in 2019. Their generosity has had a major impact in supporting literacy in the Bay Area!

Shearman
SHEARMAN & STERLING
Pro-bono legal services
& Donation

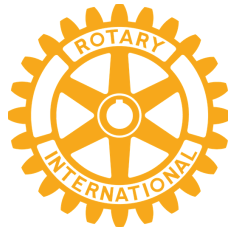
\$5,000+

ARDIAN
Grant

Palo Alto
Community Fund
Grant



SARATOGA ROTARY
Grant



WOODSIDE/PV ROTARY
Grant



Grant



Cannon Kissane \$5,010

One of our major fundraisers and supporters in 2019 was Cannon Kissane, from Boy Scout Troop 50 in Palo Alto, who raised more than \$5,000, gathered volunteers, and helped with planning and executing mural painting at Hubbard Elementary, all as part of his Eagle Scout project. Our most sincere thanks go to Cannon and his family for making such a difference in the lives of the students at Hubbard!

<\$1,000



Donation



Donation



Donation

THANK YOU DONORS!

Individual donors make up 30% of our income in 2019, and we absolutely could not have made the impact we did without them. We hope that each and every one of these generous individuals is proud of the important difference that their gift made.

\$3,000+

*Chris and Linda Forrester
Doug and Diana Collins
Heather Collins*

\$1,000+

*Alison Guan
Amanda and Stuart Collins*

\$500+

*David Wohlwend
Karin Kissane
Kenneth Kissane*

\$200+

*Christopher Gales
Theodore Hong
Stacey Bishop
Jessica Herrera Flanigan
John D'Avolio
Lauren Angelo
Claudia Truesdell
Margaret Seligson*

\$100+

*Susan Irvin-Choquette
Kenneth Collins
Lori Taniguchi/Adam Lasnik
Scott Brubaker
Anita Mraz
Lynn Russell
Annie Stapleton*

*The Verwillow Family
Bryant McOmber
Mike Gaisford
David Littlefield
Joelle Kaufman
Kathryn Agarwal
Jackie Friedman Mighdoll*

*Jakob Bergendorff
Heng Yun
John Bressler
Kendra Kissane
Laura Crowe
Andy Bouman
Dena Seki*

<\$100

*Elizabeth Finger
Sara Joelsson
Gregory Graves
Erin Jew
Matthew Stowell
Lotika and Ravi Paintal
Sung Kim
Cindy Roberts
Eric Tilenius*

*Barbara Melchin
Susan Epstein
Jay Hoffmann
Alan Tien
Chris Meyercord
Gary and Doris Eddins
Bibie Wu
Tara Farnsworth
Caroline Cote
Janel Moses
Jacqueline Yau
Nadine Dickens Pinkerton
Alexander G Radnaev
Nancy Hall
Mice Rivello*

*Gabrielle Conway
Adam Hitchcock
Tarwin Stroh-Spijer
Ben Yau
Megan Hornbecker
Gina Bianchini
Patricia Chan
Caroline Diarte Edwards
Jim Woo
Josh Stein
Chris Saito
Tita Bell
Brad Allison
Stacy Brown-Philpot
Laarni von Ruden*



With literacy and access for all

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



BOOKS FOR A LIBRARY

30 books to fill a shelf w/
processing - \$500



READING FURNITURE

One library quality reading
sofa - \$1,500



REFURBISH A SCHOOL LIBRARY

1,000 books, murals, and new
furniture - \$17,500

HOW YOU CAN HELP

STAY INFORMED:

Learn more about our programs.

VOLUNTEER: www.accessbooksbayarea.org

JOIN OUR TEAM: go to volunteermatch.org or email
info@accessbooks.org to learn more.

LIKE US: facebook.com/accessbooksbayarea

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST: info@accessbooksbayarea.org

VISIT US: www.accessbooksbayarea.org

DONATE:

Access Books Bay Area

47 Octavia Street

San Francisco, CA 94102

www.accessbooksbayarea.org/donate

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS:

doublethedonation.com/accessbooksbayarea

Your gift is tax deductible! Tax ID# 81-3039565



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Amanda Collins, Executive Director
amanda@accessbooksbayarea.org

Email info@accessbooksbayarea.org
to learn more.