



ACCESS BOOKS BAY AREA

AB BAY AREA

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Share Your
Raina's Guide to T

THE FIRST MOUSE ON THE MOON



PAPERCUT

BOLD WOMEN IN BLACK HISTORY



VASHTI HARRISON



From the illustrator of THIS MOOSE BELONGS TO ME

UNLIMITED SO

I Lost My Tooth

DORK diaries



Rachel Renée Russell

DORK diaries



Rachel Renée Russell

DORK diaries



Tales from a NOT-SO-Happy-breaker

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

What a year! While 2020 will go down in history as an incredibly challenging year for nearly everyone, for the populations of children we serve it was downright disastrous, as the COVID-19 pandemic only increased existing inequities.

In 2020 children living in poverty across the Bay Area struggled not only with accessing the required technology to be able to participate in school, but also often had to contend with crowded living spaces, competition with siblings for limited resources, food insecurity, increased economic insecurity as thousands of parents lost their jobs, and increased risk of contracting COVID in families where adults worked essential jobs that required them to work outside of the house. While affluent children were able to curl up with a book to take a break from the pandemic and their screens, children living in poverty had less access to books than ever.

The work we do at Access Books Bay Area took on even greater urgency during this difficult year, and we had to rethink how best to get books to students. While our main focus remains



on school libraries, we found new ways to get books to children living in poverty, passing out bundles of books during meal distributions, building and installing little libraries in front of shuttered schools, and engaging with volunteers and partners in new ways. With the help of nearly 150 volunteers working in socially distanced outdoor settings and from their own homes, we were able to get books to over 6500 children in need.

As we look forward to 2021 and beyond, we know that our work is needed more than ever, and we will remain focused on getting books into the hands of children, changing lives through access to literacy. Thank you for going on this journey with us, and for continuing to support our work!

AMANDA COLLINS

*Access Books Bay Area
founder & executive director
December 2020*

WHO WE ARE

The 2020 Access Books Bay Area Board of Directors



Amanda Collins, M.L.I.S.
Exec. Director & Board President
Access Books Bay Area, Palo Alto USD



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**Board Secretary/Program
Manager**
Community Volunteer



Linda Forrester
**Director of Operations
/ Program Manager**
Community Volunteer



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Incoming Treasurer
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OUR MISSION & VALUES

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 ~85% of the students live at or below the poverty line, most of whom are also children of color. We also partner with local service organizations to improve classroom libraries with donated books.

#BooksChangeLives

OUR VALUES

Literacy is a fundamental right

We believe that all children, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status, have the right to an educational environment that fosters a love of reading. Study after study has shown that students who read more do better. And not just academically, but in life. This benefit should not be reserved only for the children of the affluent and well-educated.

School libraries matter

In schools with high quality, well-stocked school libraries, children do better. Yet California provides no dedicated funding for school libraries. This is a crisis in low-income communities especially. We believe that every child has the right to have access to a high quality school library space and collection that will help foster their love of reading.

Diversity & representation matter

When the books in a school library do not reflect the lives and reality of the students at the school, or are full of outdated information and harmful stereotypes, children are not inspired to read. We believe that every child has the right to see themselves in the books they read, as well as to become inspired, and gain empathy walking in the shoes of others.

2020 PROGRAMS

HOW COVID-19 CHANGED OUR WORK

When COVID-19 hit the nation, the San Francisco Bay Area was one of the first areas to implement a complete shut down, and most schools in the area remained closed through the end of 2020. Since we could no longer work on school campuses to improve libraries, we went back to our core mission -- providing access to pleasure reading for the children most in need -- and pivoted to new programs in order to address the new reality.

We began in late spring with direct book giveaways to children and families during school meal pickups, but realized that we wanted to give students both more books on an ongoing basis, and more choice in what they took home with them. This led to our program building and installing little library boxes in front of shuttered schools, offering 24/7 access to quality books in the areas where it was needed most, including communities we had worked with before as well as new areas we had not had a chance to serve previously.



"The Dorsa Community is proud to call Access Books a trusted partner! During one of the most difficult times in our school's history, as we navigated a transition from in-person learning to Distance Learning, we worried most about ensuring our students had access to the necessary resources for continued learning. It is of no surprise that Access Books reached out early on to offer their support. Access Books has provided free, at-level books for our students and the installation of a beautiful book box with popular titles in order to foster continued access to literacy resources. We are immensely grateful for our continued partnership."

- Viviana Garcia, principal
December 2020



SCHOOL LIBRARY PROJECTS

We completed our first school library project of the year in January of 2020. Other projects were put on hold when the pandemic hit. We were able to complete one additional project with a large donation of books in December 2020.

For our school library projects Access Books Bay Area provides brand new, hardcover, culturally relevant books for the school library. We also provide the library catalog records, and our volunteers add library labels to the books, so that the staff can make the books immediately available for checkout without having to process and catalog the books themselves. This maximizes the impact of our donation, and the books are available to all students at the school for years to come.



LOS ROBLES-RONALD MCNAIR

Ravenswood School District, East Palo Alto, CA

Project completed: January 2020

No. of Students: 250 Grades: K-5
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged: 93%
Homeless: 41%
Hispanic/Latinx: 94% Black: 4.5%
English Language Learners: 82%

In January of 2020 Access Books Bay Area provided 991 beautiful, culturally relevant, Spanish and English language new books for the library, painted murals, and provided new reading furniture.

ROSEMARY ELEMENTARY

Campbell Union School District, Campbell, CA

Project Completed: December 2020

No. of Students: 422 Grades: TK-5
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged: 90%
Homeless: 1%
Hispanic/Latinx: 89% Black: 2% Asian: 3%
English Language Learners: 66%

In December of 2020 Access Books Bay Area completed a limited project due to COVID restrictions, donating 1,246 brand new, culturally relevant books, as well as a new reading couch.

SCHOOL LIBRARY PROJECTS, CONTINUED

“ THE IMPACT OF A LIBRARY PROJECT DURING THE PANDEMIC

"The pandemic continues to affect our students and their families in significant ways. The digital divide, for example, has never been more apparent as the lack of internet access and computer devices became an immediate challenge for our students in the new distance learning environment. Our parent community, which is predominantly a working class community, does not have the resources to work from home. As a consequence, many of our families have had to deal with a lack of child care, as well as disproportionate levels of exposure to COVID-19. Unfortunately, this high level of stress has had a severe impact on our students' learning experience.

Our school staff immediately recognized that one way to mitigate learning loss is through a deliberate effort to create as many opportunities as possible to keep students engaged in literacy. In doing so, our teachers devised a plan to ensure that our students had access to as many reading resources as possible. We are fortunate enough to have a school library that was recently revitalized, thanks to Access Books Bay Area. Just months before the pandemic, Access Books Bay Area introduced new and highly engaging books into our library. The new and greatly expanded graphic novels section they created in the library, for example, aimed to appeal to as many students as possible, especially our struggling readers. Given that our school teaches literacy in English and Spanish, Access Bay Area Books prioritized Spanish language books which are essential for our youngest readers. They also cleared out old materials and reorganized the library, which made it easy for students to quickly find books they were interested in reading. As a result, we observed what students were reading and it gave us information about their reading habits and interests. That information has proven to be valuable during the pandemic because it has allowed us to provide a continuous source of reading material for students with the goal of keeping literacy at the forefront of this challenging learning experience.

While it's unclear how the long-term consequences of the pandemic will impact on our community, it is evident that the resources and support that Access Books Bay Area provided months before the pandemic have become valuable during this time."

- Alex Quezada, principal
Los Robles-Ronald McNair Academy
December 2020

BOOK BUNDLE GIVEAWAYS

With both public and school libraries closed, in May of 2020 we pivoted to giving away books directly to students and families. Low-income families coming to pick up meals at school sites were given a bundle of three new books for every child in their family ages 4 to 14.

We passed out bundles at twelve sites around the South Bay and Peninsula area between May and July of 2020, including schools and Boys & Girls Clubs. We also donated 840 books to Sacred Heart Community Service to include with their holiday gift giveaways.

Impact: ~7,000 books to approximately 3,000 children



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY BOXES

To provide longer-term access to books that students could choose for themselves, Access Books Bay Area began installing little library boxes on the campuses of shuttered schools, available to the community 24/7. Each box was stocked with approximately 250 books.

These boxes brought in a huge group of community volunteers, all able to contribute from the safety of their own homes and communities by running book drives to collect new and used books for the boxes, constructing the boxes, painting colorful designs on them, and installing them.

Impact: 47 volunteers engaged, 7 boxes installed, ~1,750 books, ~2,800 children and their families given access to books!



WHAT'S NEXT?

We wish we could say that 2021 will represent a return to business as usual, but the reality is that COVID-19 is here to stay with us for at least the first half of the year, and perhaps even longer, and it will continue to constrain how we work with schools, limiting in-person involvement and changing the way we get books to children.

What will not change is our commitment to doing just that -- getting books into the hands of children. And after the racial reckoning of 2020, we are more committed than ever to making sure that all children have access to high quality reading materials that inspire them to become a reader, but that those reading materials reflect their lives and cultures. In 2021 Access Books will shift more of our attention in school projects to building valuable, representative collections of books for school libraries that will say to children, "Come in. This place is for you. Your experience and the experiences of others are all valuable, and can be found in the pages of these books."

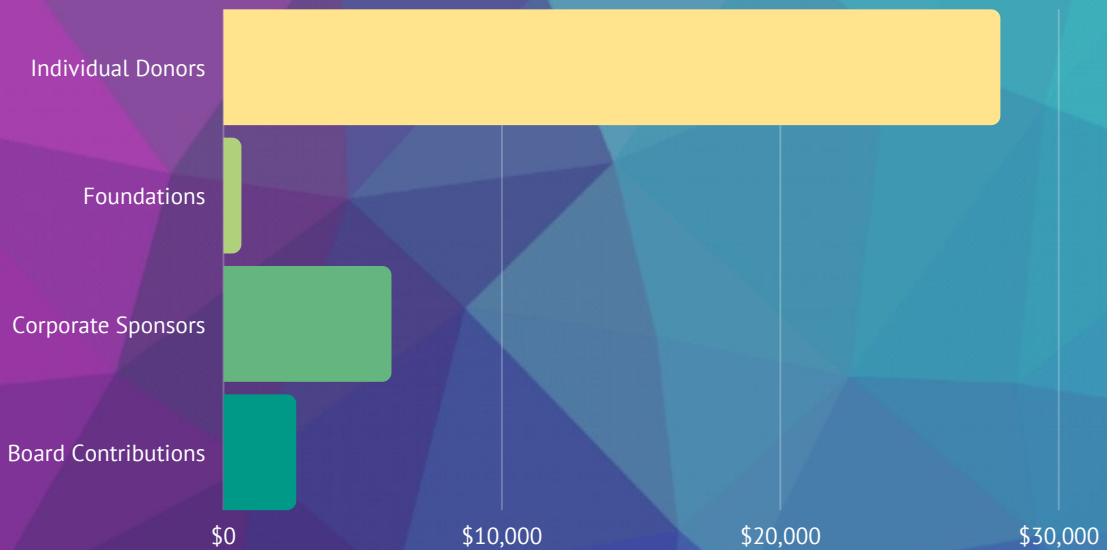
We will continue working with schools so they will be able to welcome students back to well stocked libraries in the fall, but are stopping library beautification and painting efforts until it is safe to resume them. Schools applying for and receiving project grants in 2021 will get the option for a delayed beautification project at their site once we are allowed to bring volunteers back. We will also continue our COVID response programs begun in 2020 for schools unable to reopen school libraries to students, giving books directly to students as well as building, installing, and stocking little library boxes on school sites.



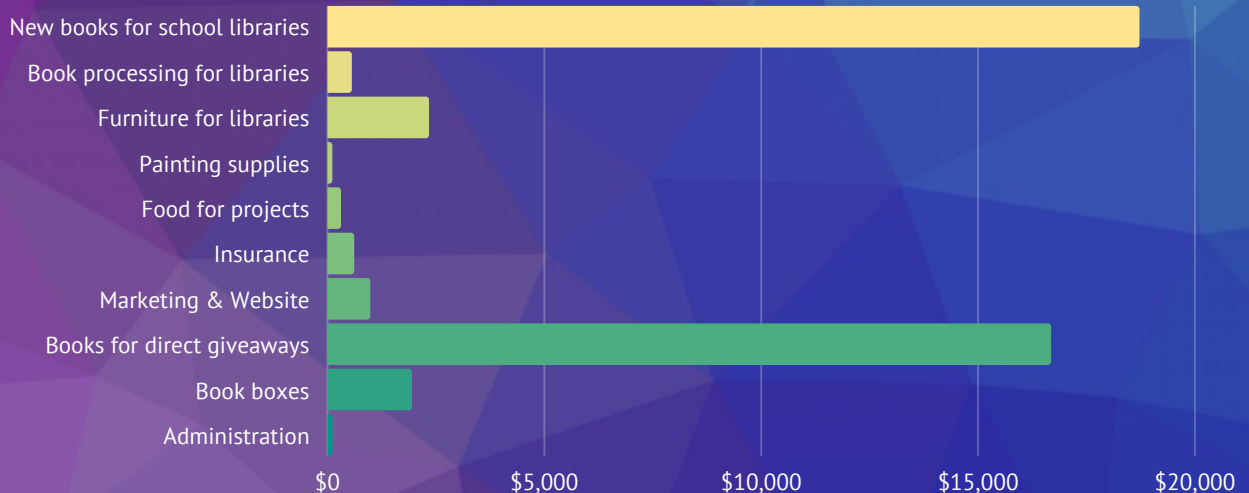
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Access Books Bay Area income in 2020 totaled approximately \$37,000, not including an additional \$17,000 received at the end of 2019, but earmarked for 2020 projects. A total of \$21,550 rolled over from 2019. View our 2020 [Form 990EZ](#) here.

REVENUE BY CATEGORY



EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

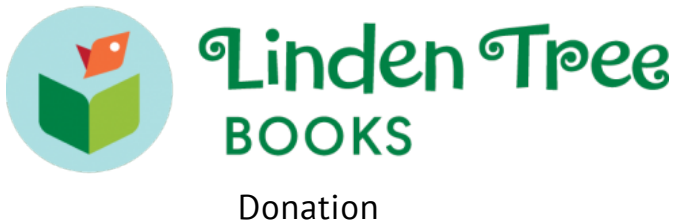


OUR AWESOME SPONSORS

We are so grateful to all of the wonderful organizations and companies that have supported our work in 2020. Their generosity helped us to weather the pandemic, and has had a major impact in supporting literacy in the Bay Area!



Donation, Volunteers, and Facility Use



Donation



Donation



Donation



Donation

OUR AMAZING DONORS

In a time when the economic circumstances of many were impacted, individual donors made up 75% of our income in 2020, 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.

\$10,000+

Anonymous

\$5,000+

Mary Murphy

\$1,000+

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Amanda & Stuart Collins
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Tita Bell
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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.

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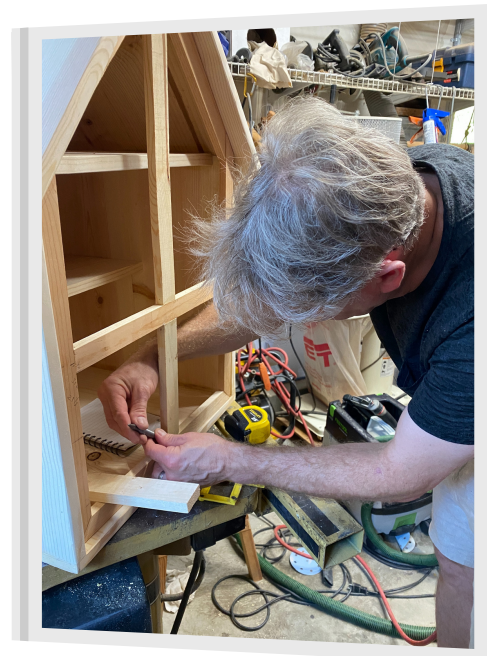
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