



2021 - 2022 IMPACT REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE FOUNDING CO-DIRECTORS



Dear OLC Community,

We are proud to share our 2021-2022 Impact Report with you. Our report is a way to share key highlights and learnings over the past year. We hope you find it exemplifies the spirit of learning, collaboration, and the right to literacy for all that drives us.

In this report, you'll see how we deepened our work supporting school ecosystems through our services with school libraries, grants for educators, and continuing to amplify and connect the work of literacy providers and schools.

We continue to strengthen, connect, and align literacy ecosystems by building knowledge, sharing tools and information, elevating critical issues and successes, and amplifying perspectives and learnings from the field. We worked in partnership with other literacy leaders to keep literacy at the forefront of our collective work, through conversations with community and elected leaders.

In the fall of 2021, we launched the Literacy and Justice for All Symposium. With the pandemic continuing, we held our inaugural Symposium as a 2-day all virtual event, connecting nearly 300 educators, practitioners, leaders and stakeholders in literacy learning and igniting collective leadership. The first of its kind for our local community, we aim to engage 1,000 educators and practitioners, in Oakland and beyond, through our Literacy and Justice for All Symposiums by our next program year.

We are deepening children's access to reading-rich spaces and high quality reading resources in new ways. Through our Reading Everywhere programs, we've been able to connect even more families to carefully curated, culturally affirming, high interest books. In partnership with Stephen and Ayesha Curry's Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation we are curating and distributing books through the Eat. Learn. Play. Bus, making weekly stops across Oakland.

We also saw growth in 2022 as we brought Friends of Oakland Public School Libraries (FOPSL) into the fold as the OLC's new School Library Partnerships program, recognizing that all students deserve quality school library services to help them learn and love to read.

Heading into 2023, we continue to work with educators, organizations, community advocates, and changemakers to build a well resourced and informed field that drives learning and practice and elevates the right of every child to read.

We hope that you will continue to be a part of the vision and movement with us.

In community,

Sanam Jorjani and Cassie Perham

Founding Co-Directors.



MISSION & VALUES

Mission

Working together to ensure that every Oakland child learns and loves to read.

Values

Equity

All students and families deserve the support they need to learn and access their civil right to literacy. We center the needs of students who are furthest from power and opportunity.

Anti-Racism

The literacy crisis in Oakland is rooted in structural and systemic racism and is itself a form of racial violence. Fulfilling our mission requires naming, confronting, and dismantling racism.

Strengths-Based

We value the assets, aspirations, power, and potential of our students and community. We know our community holds our own solutions and has the power to achieve them.

Community

We are more effective when we work together. And it's necessary to truly create the conditions for all kids in Oakland to succeed.

Relationships

Authentic relationships drive progress. We work to build the trust that allows for honest conversation and accountability.

Learning

We serve from a place of continuous learning, listening and responsiveness to students and families and our network of organizations and partners.

Expertise

In our commitment to outcomes, we are rigorous about identifying and elevating effective practices to drive student learning.



WHAT WE DO: IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Oakland Literacy Coalition brings together a rich, diverse field of helpers—educators, nonprofit practitioners, parents, schools, and community groups—with a shared goal: to ensure that all Oakland kids not only *learn* but also *love* to read.

28

Member Organizations

200

Schools and Organizations Engaged in OLC Programs

40

OLC Forums, Trainings, and Community Events

84

Schools and Community Organizations That Received Action and Book Grants Through the *OLC's Reading Everywhere* Programs

22,000

Total Books to Oakland Students, Families, and School Libraries

15,800

Oakland Students Who Received New Books Through the OLC

\$17,500

Dollars Raised for OUSD's Digital Library, Sora

CONNECTING LITERACY ECOSYSTEMS

The Oakland Literacy Coalition recruits and convenes diverse stakeholders and enables them to troubleshoot challenges, build on success, cross pollinate ideas, and forge new partnerships in service of Oakland children. We work with dozens of organizations to strengthen capacity and leadership in the field and build connected literacy ecosystems.

28 diverse member organizations working to provide a continuum of vital support services for students and advance a shared vision for literacy.

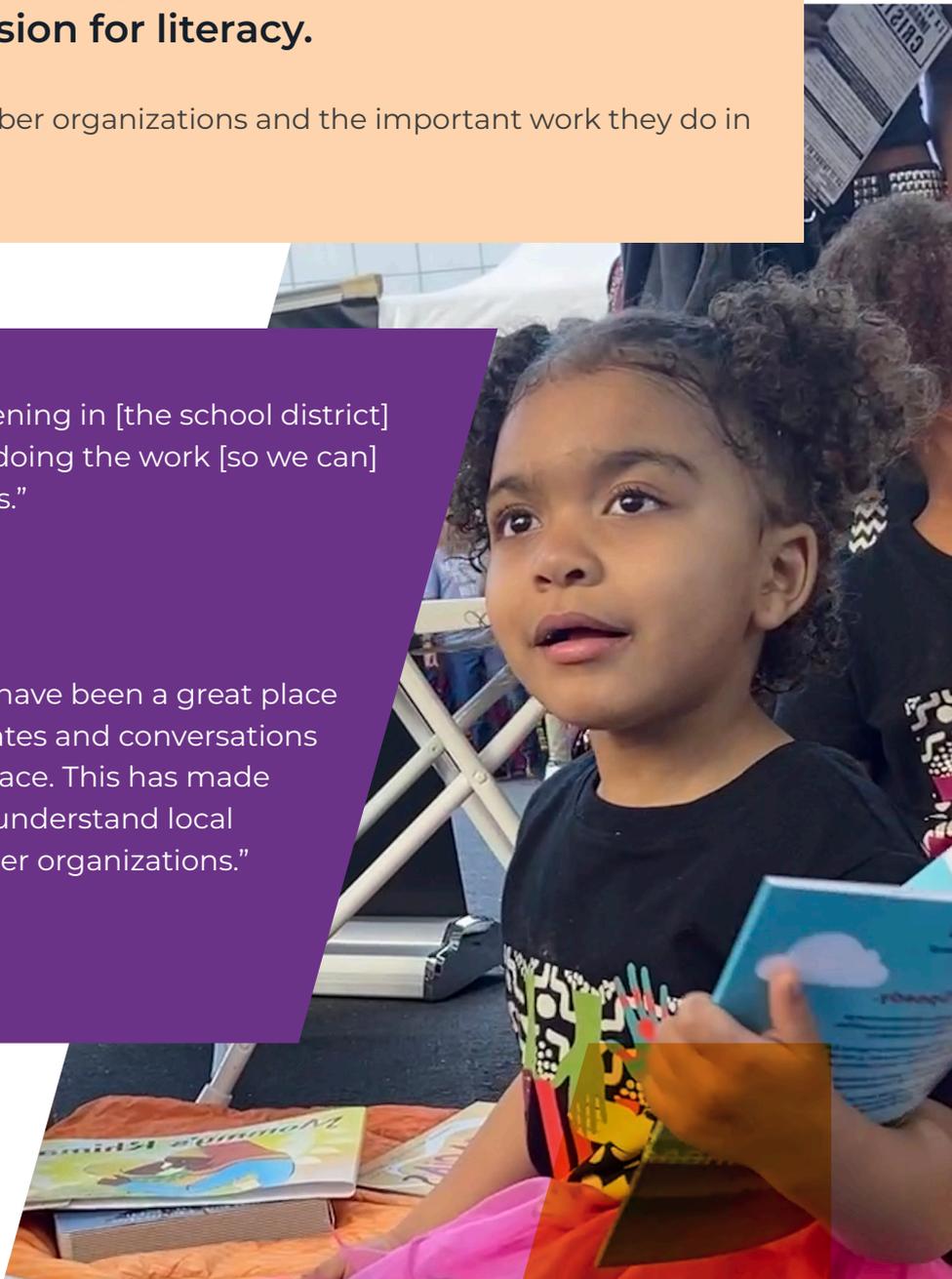
Learn more about our member organizations and the important work they do in our [Member Directory](#).

“ It allows us to know what happening in [the school district] and CONNECTS us with others doing the work [so we can] build relationships with partners.”

- OLC Member

“ OLC newsletters and meetings have been a great place to get access to important updates and conversations happening in Oakland in one place. This has made it easier for our organization to understand local dynamics and connect with other organizations.”

- OLC Member



Aligning for Impact

The Oakland Literacy Coalition is a leader in many community initiatives and collaboratives that intersect with our mission. Our work keeps literacy elevated as a constant priority, engages community voice in systems-level decision-making processes, and strengthens communication and alignment between efforts on the ground.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

May Member Workshop: Aligned and Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction Beyond the Classroom

Our May member workshop, designed in collaboration with OUSD's Strategic Planning Working Group focused on how OUSD has aligned its literacy instruction to the Science of Reading and highlighting strategies programs can use to support evidence-based reading instruction in various contexts outside of the classroom.



BUILDING CAPACITY, STRENGTHENING THE FIELD

To be as effective as possible in their work with students, literacy providers need support with best practices, quality resources and training, time and space for collaboration. The OLC is a leader in strengthening the field and strengthening organizational capacity.

Our model of engagement is based on coalition building and resourcing. We invest in learning initiatives such as open forums, training workshops and peer learning models with industry experts and community members to provide the tools and the resources needed to promote learning that will in turn inform better learning outcomes for students.

We provide workshops, peer learning spaces, and convenings that elevate practical frameworks and methodologies that help educators and providers deepen their knowledge while providing actionable strategies that can be put into practice.

In 2021-2022, the Oakland Literacy Coalition hosted 10 in-person and virtual field building workshops and convenings for members and the public.

More than **120 Participants** in our Winter & Spring Forums.

95% of participants who attended forums agree that the content was interesting and informative.

95% of participants who attended forums agree that the presenters were knowledgeable and engaging.

100% of participants who attended forums agree that the convenings furthered their learning and supported their work.

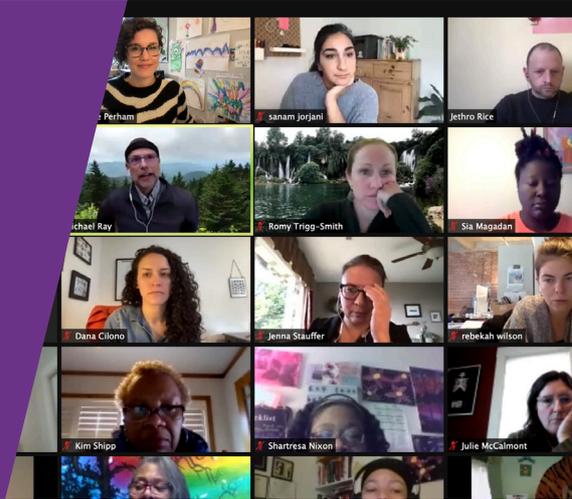
PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Winter Forum: Black Minds and the History of Education

Our 2022 Winter Forum led by educator and advocate, Tyson Amir, explored how educational institutions have impacted the Black experience historically to present day. The session was the first in a series aimed at understanding this legacy to inform and design liberatory educational spaces for equity and justice.

“Excellent presentation. Tyson is an engaging speaker and presented information in an order that helped build a full picture of what is so critically lacking in common knowledge around our education system’s history”

- Black Minds and the History of Education Forum Attendee



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

April Forum: In Conversation about OUSD Literacy Implementation

Our Spring forum featured a panel of OUSD Elementary school leaders in conversation about their experience implementing the District's new literacy curriculum. They shared their successes, challenges, learnings and strategies for improving reading outcomes at the school level.

“I appreciated firsthand knowledge of how the curriculum is going and the continual lens of putting forward the importance on supporting teachers, and uplifting gaps as well as highlighting strengths.”

- April Forum Attendee



LITERACY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL SYMPOSIUM

A 2-day virtual symposium for school and community educators, practitioners, funders, literacy leaders, and community stakeholders committed to sharing and learning effective practice and identifying strategies for creating impactful learning spaces and experiences.

The Symposium elevated educator and community voices, including families driving change in their schools. Dynamic speakers delivered sessions on effective practice, partnership & alignment, centering parent leadership, cultivating literacy leaders and system change, and literacy & social justice.



“ It lit a new fire under me as motivation to further advocate for change at my school and was so affirming and validating for all the things I’ve been feeling and thinking...It left me with concrete info and data to share with leadership...”

“ I loved the content of the sessions-- the variety, and the grounding in racial justice.”

- 2021 Symposium Attendees



“ When life happens, that’s when we have to be willing to say, ‘okay, what’s my purpose in this moment, what’s going to be different because I’m here”

- Kareem Weaver, 2021 Literacy & Justice for All Symposium Plenary Speaker



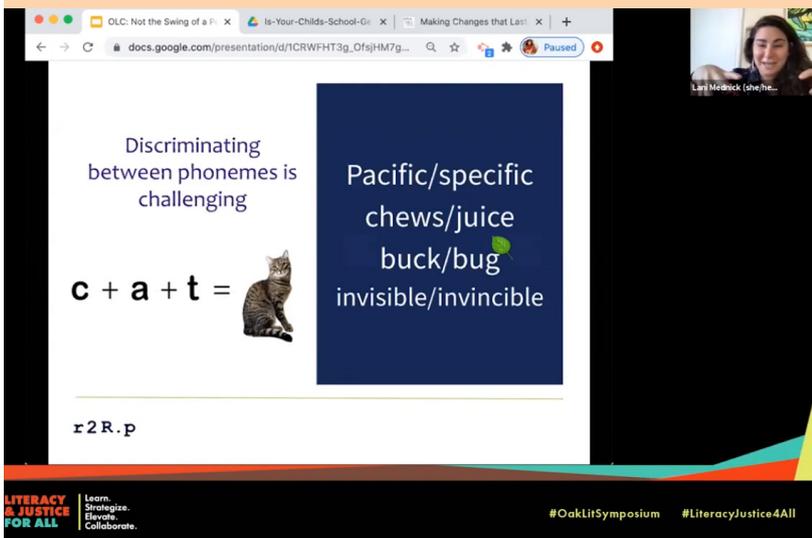
Symposium Program Highlights

Literacy: A Liberatory Civil Right

DR. JULIE WASHINGTON

Reading is the centerpiece of education in the United States from the time of school entry. Reading is recognized as essential for a successful future, and as such is regarded as a civil right. As a result, reading is being introduced at younger and younger ages. Despite this, fewer than half of children who are poor, brown, black and male are reading at grade level in 4th grade. The role of instruction, language variation, and deficit thinking are discussed in this training, including recommendations for improving outcomes going forward.





It's not the Swing of the Pendulum: Reading & The Brain

LANI MEDNICK AND
MARGARET GOLDBERG

In this training, Margaret and I will give an overview of well-established findings of the reading research. We then will engage in an interactive workshop regarding the 4

part-processor and how the brain learns to read. We will relate this to best practices at the systems and classroom level to give student access to their civil right to read.

Intervention is Racist

DR. SABRINA "BRI" MOORE
AND PRECIOUS JAMES

If you're working at any level, in the development of antiracist learning cultures, do not miss this workshop grounded on the practical pedagogy of antiracist practice in literacy learning and leadership. Teachers and leaders of literacy will leave this session



with concrete moves to interrupt practices and policies of literacy learning that perpetuate outcomes predictable by race. Be ready to do the heavy lifting and learning for better literacy outcomes. As-well-as have some learning fun with P and Bri. Being an antiracist in literacy learning and leading requires action not more words of advocacy; acceleration, relationship, rigor & relevance matters.

VIEW HIGHLIGHT REEL

www.literacyandjusticeforall.org



READING RICH ENVIRONMENTS

Students deserve affirming, highly engaging books and literacy-rich environments at school, home, and in the community.

The Oakland Literacy Coalition's **Reading Everywhere** and **School Library Partnerships** programs equip our network of schools and community partners to share the joy and power of reading with Oakland students and families.

READING EVERYWHERE

Our Reading Everywhere program builds children's home libraries through book and action grants to schools and community partners. The OLC supports literacy development and the love of reading in all parts of the community, both in traditional spaces such as schools and daycares, and nontraditional spaces such as community groups that focus on supporting families, youth development, faith, and social services.

The OLC curates a wide variety of books by BIPOC and LGBTQ+ authors for our book and action grants. The books we supply for schools and communities are new, high quality, selected to reflect the rich diversity of our community, and in the many home languages spoken by Oakland families.

Community Literacy Action Grants

Supporting community organizations with resources, guidance, and books to host literacy projects with their families. Through action grants we reach students where they are and empower organizations who don't necessarily view themselves as literacy providers to bring a literacy focus into their programs.

Awarded 57 grants totaling \$35,000 to 44 organizations

Distributed 4,237 books to 3,382 children and families

Summer 2022 Grantee Highlights

Literacy and Love, an organization that provides literacy access to at risk students in West Oakland and Kabul, Afghanistan, celebrated the launch of Ms. Marvel - the first Muslim American super hero Disney channel show. Ms. Marvel books were distributed to newly settled Afghan refugees ages 5-9 and they participated in in-person small reading groups to reinforce early literacy skills.

“ Thank you, thank you for giving us the gift of sharing self-affirming, enriching books with our children. We as teachers and parents are learning from these books, as well, and are grateful for OLC’s support.”

- Rice and Beans Preschool Cooperative

Book Grants

Providing schools with books to send home with their students to add to their home libraries.

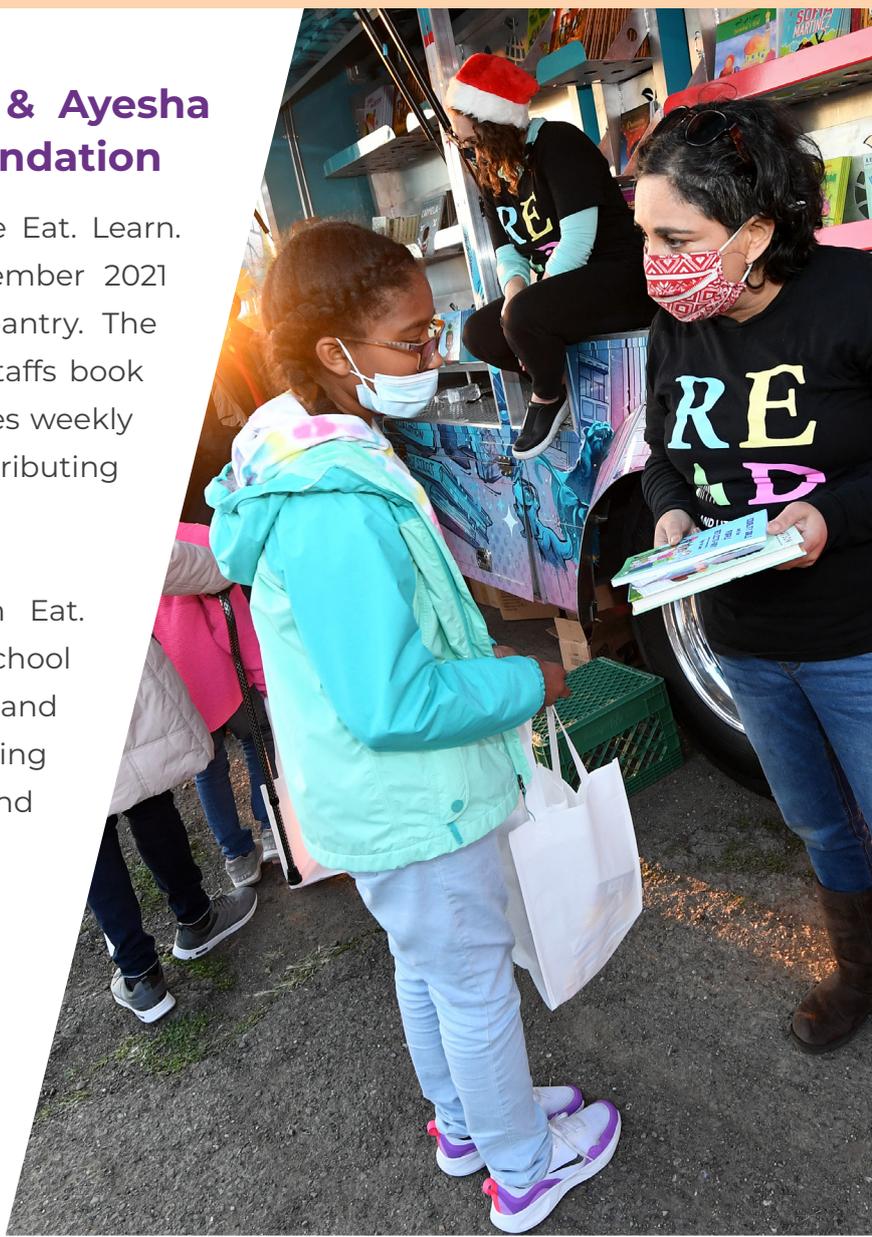
Distributed 9,015 books to 6,074 elementary and middle school students at 40 schools.

Partnership with Stephen & Ayesha Curry’s Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation

The OLC is proud to partner with the Eat. Learn. Play. Bus, which launched in September 2021 as a bookmobile and mobile food pantry. The OLC curates the book selection and staffs book distributions with the bus, which makes weekly stops at locations across Oakland distributing 500-1,000 books each visit.

In the summer, we partnered with Eat. Learn. Play. to distribute books to preschool students through public preschools and early childhood providers, including BANANAS, Brighter Beginnings, and Community Child Care Council.

6,402 books to 2,230 preschool-age students in 77 classrooms.



SCHOOL LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

(Formerly Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries)

Building off ten years of FOPSL's service, the SLP program is connecting to new audiences and resources to amplify and educate community understanding of the value of school libraries. Effective school library programs increase literacy and overall student achievement, including college and career readiness.

The Libib Library Book Donation Program allows school librarians to select high interest books for their school libraries, prepared and delivered by volunteers.

2,334 shelf-ready library books were processed and delivered to school libraries.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Sora Digital Library

We continue to partner with OUSD to support the growth of the OUSD Digital Library, which FOPSL helped to launch.

11,300

OUSD Students Used
the Sora Digital Library

218,000

Books Checked Out
Through Sora

57,600

Combined Total Hours
of Reading on Sora

“ I'm so happy you are working with us in this new capacity. We are making headway in OUSD, but only with the advocacy we have had, and will hopefully continue to build. It's an honor to stand with librarians dedicated to open libraries for every student in Oakland.”

**- Mariah Sparks, Library Technician
at Greenleaf Elementary**



In Conversation with Authors to Benefit School Libraries

Our Spring Author Chats Series featured three dynamic authors sharing their behind-the-scenes stories to benefit our School Library Partnerships program.

**Three evenings, three authors, three diverse genres:
historical fiction, science fiction, and cooking.**



Mike Chen



Meg Waite Clayton



Andy Baraghani

Science fiction opens up
worlds, galaxies, multiverses
of the imagination!

A perfect metaphor
for what literacy
does for all kids.

Literacy is a freedom tool.
Every child can be a
reader and a writer.



STAFF & BOARD

Oakland Literacy Coalition Team

- Cassie Perham** Founding Co-Director
- Sanam Jorjani** Founding Co-Director
- Jasmine Brown** Associate Director of Development
- Alia Gabres** Program Manager, Coalition Learning
- Julia Sen** Reading Everywhere Program Manager
- Allyson Bogie** School Library Partnership Program Manager
- Anjali George and Diana Sam** UC Berkeley Public Service Interns

With appreciation for former board members,
Jeremy Largman and **Lacy Asbill**.

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FINANCIALS

Statement of Activities

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

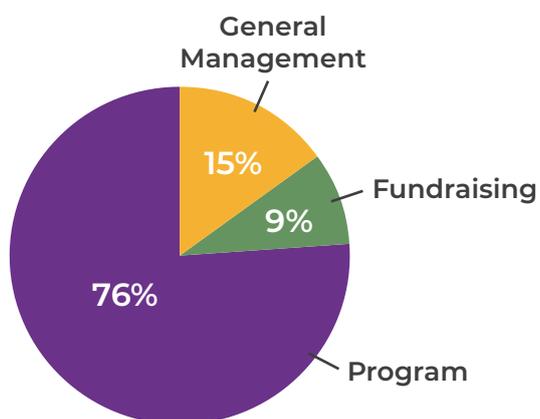
REVENUE	\$1,367,279
EXPENSES	\$873,514
NET REVENUE	\$493,765

Balance Sheet

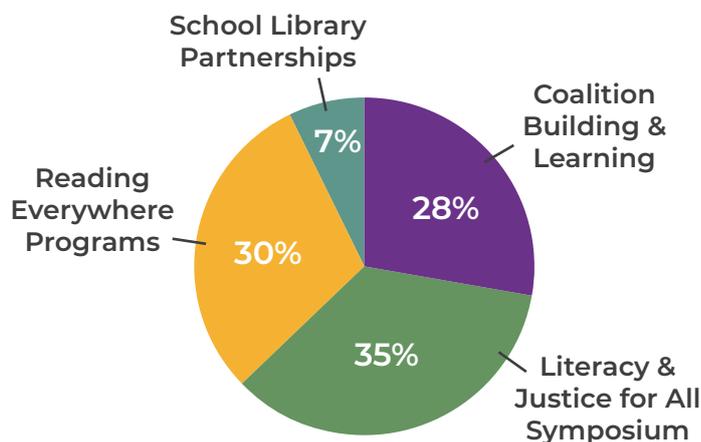
June 30, 2022

ASSETS	\$911,422
LIABILITIES	\$64,107
EQUITY	\$847,315
TOTAL LIABILITY AND EQUITY	\$911,422

Organizational Expenses



Expenses by Program Area



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!

Your generosity enables our work and helps move us forward, together, to help all Oakland students.

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Oakland Thrives

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Need a correction? Contact Jasmine@oaklandliteracycoalition.org

The OLC is proud that our individual donors truly represent our community.
Every gift, of every size, is valued and makes our work possible.

Two-thirds of our donations were gifts under \$100

Nearly half of all donations were gifts under \$50

IT TAKES ALL OF US!

JOIN US AND LET'S GO FURTHER TOGETHER

DONATE

Your gift, of any size, enables the OLC's work to support the entire literacy field and benefits students across Oakland.

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINING DONOR

Consider becoming a monthly donor. Monthly gifts help the OLC to plan our programs ahead, knowing we can count on your sustained generosity.

[BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR](#)

BECOME A MEMBER

We welcome organizations whose work contributes to literacy access and achievement for Oakland students. Coalition members learn, collaborate, and champion literacy together.

[LEARN ABOUT MEMBERSHIP](#)

SUBSCRIBE & STAY CONNECTED

Sign up for the OLC's newsletter to receive program updates, volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, and other ways to support literacy in our community.

[SIGN UP FOR NEWSLETTERS](#)

