



OAKLAND
LITERACY
COALITION

2022 - 2023
IMPACT REPORT

GUIDING BELIEFS AND VALUES



Mission

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

The OLC's work towards our mission is guided by our beliefs:

Literacy enables learning and liberation.

Allowing children to become powerful advocates for themselves, their communities, and their world.

Families are powerful agents of change.

Families want what's best for their children and have many different assets. Families deserve strong allies to support their children's learning.

All kids can learn, succeed, and thrive.

With strong instruction, caring adults, and opportunities that affirm who they are and respond to their needs.

Our collective success depends on one another.

And how we work in authentic and sustained partnership as a community.

CORE VALUES



EQUITY



ANTI-RACISM



STRENGTHS-BASED



COLLABORATION



COMMUNITY



LEARNING



EXPERTISE

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Photo by Afro-Play Oakland

For me, the idea of keeping kids front and center resonates the loudest. It’s also important to make sure that there’s alignment (a shared vision) between the work that I do and community partnerships/organizations.

- 2022 LJ4A Symposium attendee



Reading and Roller Skates, one of the summer Reading Everywhere Action Grant recipients.

READ MORE ON PAGE 14



LETTER FROM THE FOUNDING CO-DIRECTORS



Dear Friends and Partners of the Oakland Literacy Coalition,

We extend our warmest greetings to you as we present our annual impact report for the 2022-2023 fiscal and school year. This year has been significant for the Oakland Literacy Coalition. In our commitment to fostering a community where every child has the opportunity to thrive through literacy, we expanded our learning programs and designed new tools to support the field and ecosystem. We've seen change at a community level, with Oakland rising up as an example of embracing change to strengthen student learning and success.

As you delve into this report, you will see highlights from our work and impact over the past year—equipping community with information, resources, and opportunities to be champions for literacy, igniting a joy of reading, fostering productive collaboration, and deepening learning opportunities to build the capacity of our field to drive outcomes.

This report is not just a reflection of our past year but a testament to the enduring dedication of our supporters and partners. It's a call to action, an invitation to join us in our mission, and an opportunity to witness the positive change we can create together. We invite you to explore this report, be inspired by the stories within, and consider how you can continue to make a lasting difference in the lives of Oakland's children.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Sanam Jorjani and Cassie Perham, Co-Executive Directors

IN THESE PAGES YOU WILL READ ABOUT HOW WE:

- Fully incorporated the School Library Partnerships program (formerly Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries) into the OLC, bringing greater community visibility and support to OUSD school libraries.
- Sedimented Oakland as a hub for literacy leadership by expanding the reach of our Literacy and Justice for All Symposium and bringing educators, leaders, and stakeholders from across the country to learn and connect here in Oakland.
- Launched the Oakland Reads website as a tool for families and community partners to access actionable information about the skills young children need to learn to become strong readers and how to get support for a child who may be struggling.
- Contributed to national conversations about literacy and highlighted how Oakland is serving as a model with the adoption of structured literacy instruction and high-dosage tutoring.
- Hosted our first Open House as a way to gather education stakeholders from across the city, highlight recent progress, showcase the work of our member organizations, and hear from Sondra Aguilera, OUSD Chief Academic Officer, about how Oakland is leading for literacy and how the tools and resources created by the OLC have supported the district's efforts.
- Released our new Strategic Plan, a roadmap for our work over the next three years.

OUR IMPACT THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

The Oakland Literacy Coalition is truly a citywide anchor for literacy efforts; our work spans across Oakland schools, and extends into community spaces. Through our many touchpoints, we've increasingly been able to engage early learning and older student communities. Working with teachers, library staff, literacy providers, advocates, and stakeholders, we serve as a hub to connect Oakland's literacy ecosystem.



IMPACT SNAPSHOT



23
Member Organizations



16
OUSD school libraries that received grants for new books



454
Total people engaged in convenings/touchpoints.



109
Total Reading Everywhere partner schools and organizations

40,476

Total Books Distributed



Reading Everywhere Action Grants: 4,951 (12%)

Eat. Learn. Play. Bus & Little Town Libraries: 28,800 (71%)

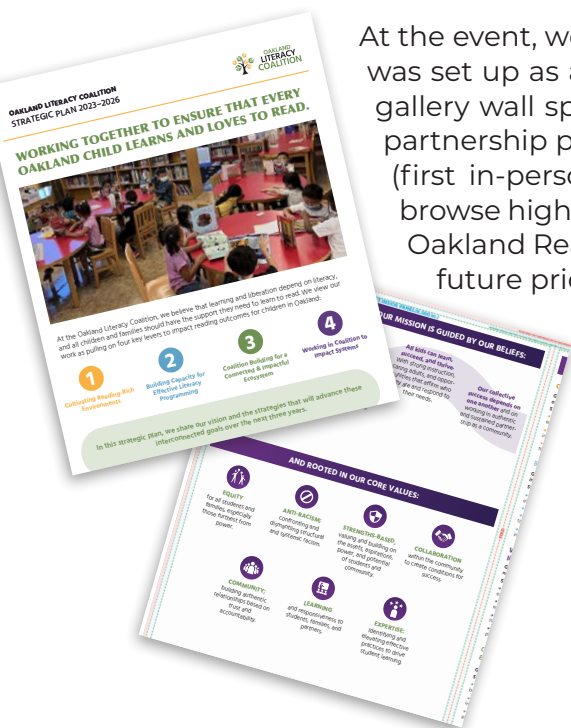
Classrooms and School Library Books: 6,725 (17%)

BRANCHING OUT: GROWING FROM SOLID ROOTS INTO OUR NEXT PHASE



OLC Board Members at the Spring Open House.

In March 2023, 80 people – members, supporters, staff, and friends of the Oakland Literacy Coalition – gathered for an open house at Artthaus Studios, where the OLC office is located. It was a chance for people to break out of their day to day work and connect face-to-face with others who are working with the same ultimate goal – seeing our kids thrive academically and beyond.



At the event, we shared our new three-year strategic plan, and the room was set up as a way to experience our strategic directions in action – a gallery wall spotlighting our member organizations and school library partnership program, a video showing highlights from our 2nd annual (first in-person) Literacy and Justice for All symposium, a corner to browse highly coveted children’s books, iPads demonstrating the new Oakland Reads website, and a listening post for guests to weigh in on future priorities.

The 2023-2026 Strategic Priorities build on our track record of identifying and advocating for districtwide policies and interventions to address systemic barriers to equitable literacy instruction.



STRATEGIC PLAN

This strategic plan holds onto our core areas of work: building our coalition and aligning for impact, expanding access to quality books, and resourcing the field for effective literacy learning. There are 4 interwoven strategic priorities:

1. Cultivating reading-rich environments.

This includes increasing access to high quality, linguistically and culturally responsive books that meet children where they are - at home, at school, and in the community, and developing accessible, easy-to-use resources like the Oakland Reads website that support Oaklanders to promote reading and learning.



2. Building Capacity for Effective Literacy Programming.

We will provide opportunities for educators and practitioners to deepen their understanding and implementation of evidence-based literacy practices, create productive spaces for educators and practitioners to address common challenges and improve their practice through collaboration and peer learning.

3. Coalition Building for a Connected & Impactful Ecosystem.

We do this by convening and creating space among our member organizations and our school library partners to discuss complex challenges and new opportunities to improve reading outcomes, rooted in equity and anti-racism. We also promote the use of data and tools like the LitMap to increase transparency and further alignment across systems and organizations.



4. Working in Coalition to Impact Systems.

We can harness the expertise within our community by listening and identifying opportunities to inform and impact systems. We will lift up the expertise and experiences of coalition partners and amplify literacy as a priority with system leaders, policymakers, and at decision-making tables.

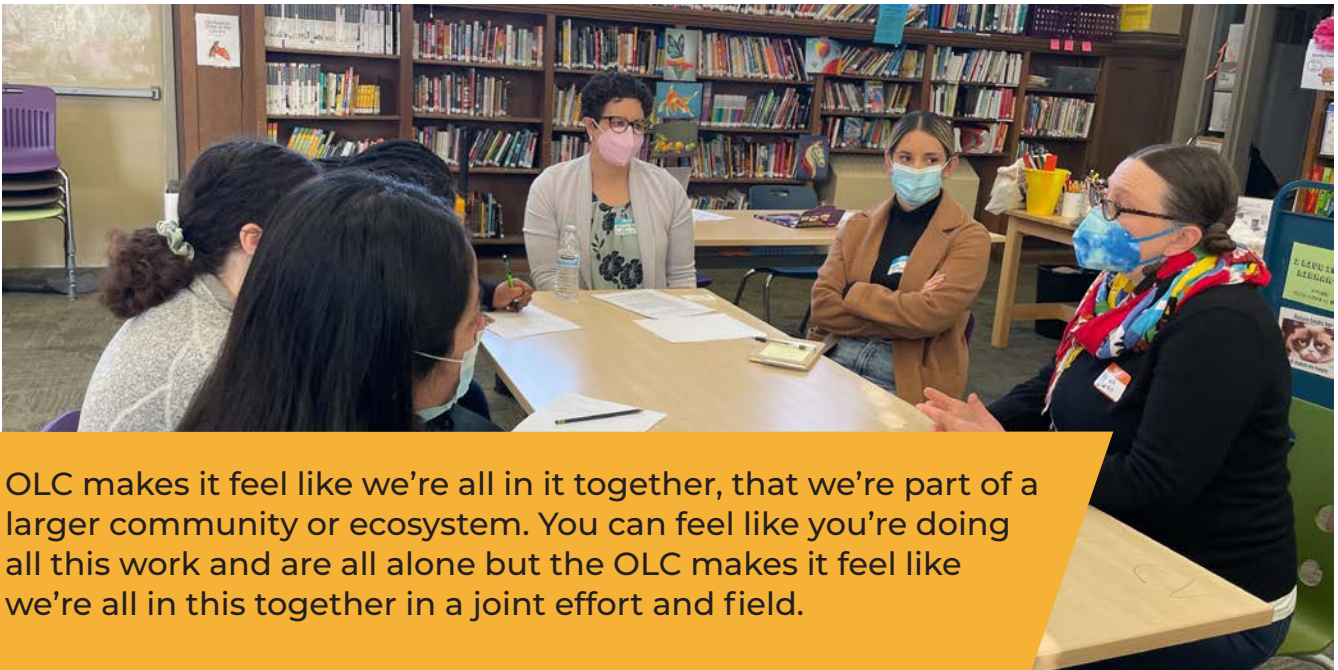
BUILDING CAPACITY AND STRENGTHENING THE LITERACY ECOSYSTEM

The Oakland Literacy Coalition provides spaces for learning including forums, trainings and conferences that elevate information and help participants deepen knowledge and understanding and also provide actionable strategies that can be put into practice on the ground.

The OLC serves as an information hub and resource for accessible information and learning related to literacy. By focusing on building the capacity of literacy providers and stakeholders in Oakland, we are supporting the development of Oakland students to learn and love to read.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

In February we brought members together with OUSD librarians in the Calvin Simmons School Library, which serves students from Life Academy and United for Success Academy, to learn about and facilitate partnerships between community partners and school libraries as a means for supporting students in their reading development.



OLC makes it feel like we're all in it together, that we're part of a larger community or ecosystem. You can feel like you're doing all this work and are all alone but the OLC makes it feel like we're all in this together in a joint effort and field.

- Emily Grunt, FluentSeeds





ROMY TRIGG-SMITH, OUSD, **ERIN COX**, ASPIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, **JASMINE TOW**, EDUCATION FOR CHANGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

The June 6 virtual roundtable featured three literacy leaders representing Oakland Unified and charter networks highlighting successes, lessons, and challenges from the 22-23 school year. The roundtable demonstrated how schools made the shift to using strong curricula that support both language comprehension/ knowledge building and word recognition/ decoding skills.

OLC MEMBERS

OLC members represent more than 20 diverse organizations working to support literacy in and out of school, with a collective reach that extends across all of Oakland's schools and neighborhoods.

Why join the member network?



Developing staff knowledge:

100 percent of members surveyed said participation in the OLC has contributed to staff knowledge and development within their organizations.



Getting Connected:

100 percent shared that because of the OLC, they feel more connected to their field.



Advancing their work:

100 percent of members who responded agreed that the OLC Member Network helps to advance their organization's mission.

We have to build our mindset around what kids can do because all of the outside forces are telling us kids can't do it . . . what am I doing to show that I believe every kid can do this?

- Jasmine Tow, Education for Change Public Schools





PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

School Library Partnerships

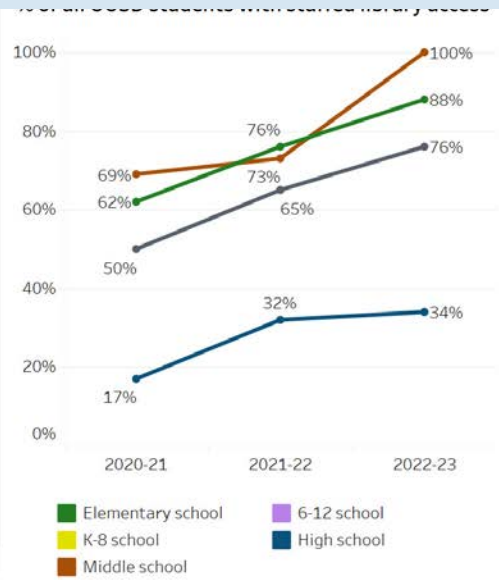
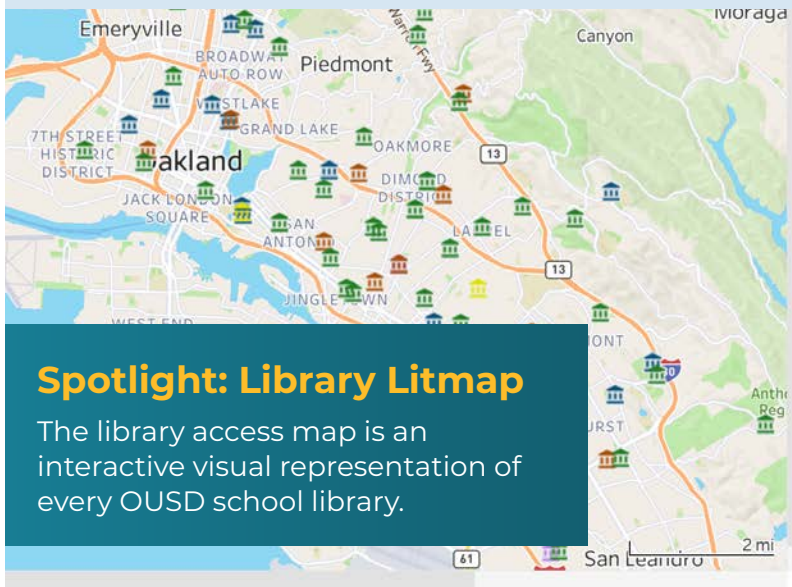
When school libraries are better connected to the literacy ecosystem in Oakland, students and educators have more resources and the libraries are more highly valued and utilized.

The School Library Partnership program (formerly Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries) works in partnership with OUSD libraries from elementary to high school to help our school system create equitable library access for every student across Oakland.

THE SLP PARTNERS WITH OAKLAND SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IN TWO PRIMARY WAYS:

Connecting school libraries to the literacy ecosystem in Oakland.

We increase community understanding of the value and impact of school libraries by connecting the work of our school libraries to a broader ecosystem. Providing direct support to OUSD school libraries to increase their ability to provide high quality literacy experiences to their school communities.



Providing direct support to OUSD school libraries to increase their ability to provide high quality literacy experiences to their school communities.

- **94%** of library staff responding agree or strongly agree that the SLP has increased their ability to provide high quality literacy experiences to their school community.
- Provided over **80 hours** of strategic advice and support to **31 OUSD libraries**.
- Elaine Wells Books Kids Want to Read Grant Program: **\$23,000** awarded in direct grants to **16 school libraries** in amounts ranging from **\$1,000-\$2,000**.
- Raised funding and awareness for the OUSD digital library, Sora. During the 2022-2023 school year and summer, **12,329 OUSD students** checked out 259,291 ebooks and audiobooks, and read a combined average total of **8,000 hours** each month.

LITERACY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL SYMPOSIUM

STATS

282

Participants

16

Workshops and Plenary Sessions

24

Speakers and Panelists

92%

of attendees agreed the Symposium furthered their learning and provided new insights

99%

agreed they left with a renewed urgency and motivation to carry on their work

95%

agree they would recommend the Symposium to their colleagues



Sarah Petersen, Ph.D.
@srptrsn

Still thinking about the morning keynote at #LJ4ALL from @KJWinEducation. We need to fight groupthink in literacy education by building bridges and “engaging on the substance” instead of tone policing.

6:43 PM · Oct 15, 2022

The 2022 Literacy and Justice for All Symposium brought together nearly 300 people who experienced the power of connection a hybrid in-person and virtual convening and the promise of a united voice advocating for the resources and practices we need in order to get every child reading by third grade. The program spanned four days and included virtual sessions, a rough cut screening of The Right to Read film, and a final day of in-person conference sessions, including a Keynote by Kareem Weaver.

Featured speakers and workshop facilitators covered a range of topics from the Science of Reading, Social and Emotional Learning, Evidence Based Instruction to Partnering for Impact. It was a dynamic, engaging, and joyful space for literacy learning and leadership. We combined the things that make Oakland a destination for literacy learning, and also expanded the conversation beyond the Bay Area. Virtual pre-conference sessions gave people a chance to tune in from across the country to hear from amazing speakers, including Kim Lockhart, Second Language Educator and Advocate for Students with Learning Disabilities in Ontario, CA, and Karen D’Souza of EdSource in conversation with Lakisha Young of the Oakland REACH.

I've carried the torch of inspiration with me since the Symposium. It was a nice combination of practical tips for teaching with more big-picture information on the issues surrounding literacy and justice.

- 2022 Symposium Attendee



SESSION SNAPSHOT



Implementation Science: What Leaders Should Know

Stephanie Stephens

Director of Professional Development Services,
AIM Institute for Learning and Research

Cynthia Hadicke, Ed.D.

Director of Client Success and Implementation,
AIM Institute for Learning and Research

When leaders adhere to Implementation science, the overall quality and effectiveness of educational outcomes improve. Leading literacy initiatives using implementation science allows school leaders to commit to the research and the theory behind effective reading instruction. “Evidence-based systems alone are not enough to create positive change in systems. Successfully adopting new programs and practices requires deliberate and focused efforts to change professional practice” (Lyon, 2017). This session will review best practices for successful literacy implementation in your school or district.

SESSION SNAPSHOT



Code Cracking: Reimagining Schools' Literacy Ecosystems

Jessica Reid Sliwerski

Founder + CEO, Ignite! Reading

Michael Burks

Principal, KIPP: Bridge Rising Academy

Jessica will offer insights on how her organization is not only reimagining the way kids are taught to read, but how literacy education is operationalized in schools. She will detail how a virtual, high-dosage tutoring model rooted in the science of reading is delivering effective solutions to the nation's literacy crisis. Launched in Oakland and now in six states, her organization is creating new opportunities to advance equity and innovation when teaching children how to read. In addition to presenting tools to overcome learning loss, Jessica will demonstrate how fusing technology, a data-driven approach, and school-based partnerships can generate extraordinary outcomes for students.

A child's mind is a book. While the preface is often written before your encounter, your imprint will determine how the rest of the book is written.

-Azariah Cole-Shepherd, 2022 Poet in Residence



CULTIVATING READING-RICH ENVIRONMENTS: READING EVERYWHERE

The Reading Everywhere program expands access to reading-rich spaces for children and their families to support learning and cultivate the love of reading. We do this through three main areas:

1

READING EVERYWHERE ACTION GRANTS

Action Grants provide community and faith-based organizations with high interest, culturally affirming books and up to \$500 in funds for literacy projects with students outside of school time. By partnering with people and organizations who work directly with students, we ensure that community literacy champions have the tools they need to support students to learn and love to read. This past year, about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the organizations that received grants did not primarily focus on academic programming, which supports our goal of bringing literacy and books into community spaces beyond the classroom.



ACTION GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

DEFREMERY SKATE PROGRAM: READING AND

Our Reading and Roller-skate event was AMAZING!!!!
Parents were impressed, Kids read with roller skates on!
When they became tired from skating, they sat down and read books.

”

ACTION GRANTS AND SCHOOL BOOK DISTRIBUTIONS:

'22-23 SCHOOL YEAR
+ '23 SUMMER

41

organizations

46

schools

2500

involved
students

\$14,750

awarded

6,251

books given out

ACTION GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

AFRO-PLAY JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

My two children and I had the pleasure of attending Afro-Plays Juneteenth celebration on June 15th. We cannot say enough about how important this event was for my family as it brought together generations of black families to support and uplift each other in love and community. We left the event with books, food vouchers and gift bags which was a wonderful and helpful surprise.



2 OAKLAND READS



Through www.oaklandreads.org, we engage and educate families and out-of-school time providers to support students on their journeys to becoming successful readers. We developed the site in partnership with OUSD to make the literacy academic milestones more accessible for families, caregivers, and out-of-school time providers. Grounded in the science of reading, the site helps break down jargon and common literacy concepts so parents and tutors can take some steps at home to support what students learn in the classroom.

OAKLAND READS HIGHLIGHTS

- Outreach to 2000 OUSD families at 10 schools with Oakland Reads postcards included in early literacy family literacy kits
- Translation available in 6 languages: English, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, Vietnamese, Khmer

After co-creating the OUSD literacy milestones with the Oakland Literacy Coalition, we wanted to make sure families and community members were given the tools and strategies to be true partners in supporting students' reading. Now we can refer people to the Oakland Reads website to quickly learn about the reading skills and domains that children are working on and learning at school. Families can find resources and fun activities to use to continue their children's learning at home. It has been a truly wonderful partnership between the OUSD Literacy Team and the OLC.

- Romy Trigg-Smith, OUSD Director of Early Literacy, PK-2



3 IMPROVING ACCESS TO HIGH-INTEREST, CULTURALLY AFFIRMING BOOKS

All students need books that are at their level, are high-interest, and as Rudine Simms-Bishop says, provide “windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors,” so they can see themselves and learn about others’ experiences. The OLC curates and leverages our networks to distribute new, high quality books that reflect and affirm the diverse identities of Oakland children and families. In partnership with Stephen and Ayesha Curry’s Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation, the OLC curates, sources, and distributes tens of thousands of books each year for the Eat. Learn. Play. Bus and Little Town Libraries, two major initiatives to connect Oakland children with quality books and the joy of reading.



Whenever we distribute books through the Eat. Learn. Play. Bus or Little Town Libraries, we show up with books that are high interest and culturally affirming, in multiple languages. The Oakland Literacy Coalition curates and sources the books we distribute, and we can see how much it matters when a kid's eyes light at the sight of a story they recognize or a character that looks like them. The OLC has their finger on the pulse of what books are appealing to Oakland kids and curates a great selection of choices that kids are excited to take home and read, and that teachers love to have in their classrooms.

- Chris Helfrich, CEO, Eat. Learn. Play Foundation





FINANCIALS

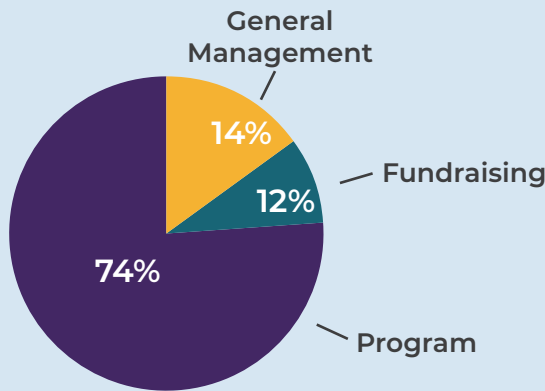
Statement of Activities

REVENUE	\$894,909
EXPENSES	\$1,006,393
NET REVENUE	-\$111,484

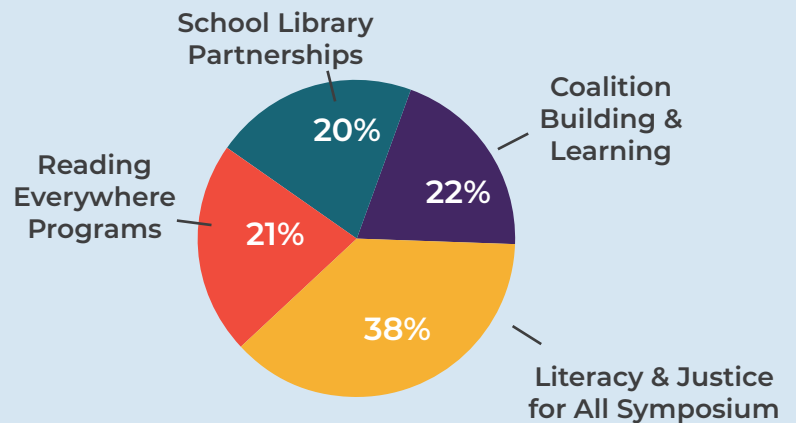
Balance Sheet

ASSETS	\$781,445
LIABILITIES	\$40,615
EQUITY	\$740,830
TOTAL LIABILITY AND EQUITY	\$781,445

Organizational Expenses



Expenses by Program Area



STAFF & BOARD

Oakland Literacy Coalition Team

- Cassie Perham** Co-Executive Director
- Sanam Jorjani** Co-Executive Director
- Heather Appel** Senior Communications Manager
- Julia Sen** Reading Everywhere Program Manager
- Michael Rhodes-Baker**, Development Manager
- Yareli Arreola**, Events and Outreach Coordinator
- Leigh Carroll**, School Library Partnership Program Coordinator

Special thanks to **Sierra Stern** and **Katrina Sacurom**, Summer 2023 Urban Leaders Fellows and **Anjali George**, UC Berkeley Public Service Intern

With appreciation for former board members, **Rachel Aoanan** and **Chris Angotti**

Board of Directors

- Dulce Torres-Petty** Board Co-Chair
- Tiffany Furrell** Board Co-Chair
- Matt Aguiar** Board Treasurer
- Allison Lopez** Board Secretary
- Kyra Mungia**
- Rachel Aoanan**
- Michelle Goldenberg**
- Kira Lewis Clark**
- Alexei Eleusis Díaz Vera**
- Townes Bouchard-Dean**

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE, THANK YOU

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our funding partners and donors. Your generosity transcends mere financial assistance; it signifies a profound belief in the transformative potential of literacy and the vital role it plays in shaping young lives. Together, we're writing a new story about literacy and early education in the Town.

Your donations of every amount make a difference! Donations of amounts less than \$100 made up 78% of our total individual donations. Last year your collective contributions brought in over \$17,000 for the organization.

FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESSES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS:

Alibris, Inc.	Lexia Learning
The Christensen Fund	Oakland Athletics
Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation	Oakland Public Education Fund
FluentSeeds	OverDrive, Inc.
Fulcrum/Marcus Foster Educational Institute	Sparkjoy Foundation
Google	T. Gary & Kathleen Rogers Private Family Foundation
Great Minds	Temple Sinai People of the Book Literacy Project
Heffernan Foundation	Warriors Community Foundation
Hellman Foundation	Western Alliance Bank
Intel Corporation	
Kenneth Rainin Foundation	

A SALUTE TO OUR MONTHLY DONORS AND MAJOR DONORS

Your gifts have been the cornerstone of our success in ensuring that every Oakland child learns and loves to read. Your steadfast support empowers us to persist in our essential work, and we look forward to reaching even greater milestones together in the future.

Rose Lynn Abesamis-Bell	Angela Barth	Patrick Chan
Matt Aguiar	Deberah Bass-Schlagel	Devaki Chandra & John Kuriyan
Carlene & Richard Anderson	Tami Boulet	Courtney & Danny Chaves
Geoffrey Anderson	Gleoria Bradley-Sapp	Katie Clancy
Chris Angotti	Patricia Brouillette	Marshall Clark
Rachel Aoanan	Jo & Norm Budman	David Clifford
Virginia Appel	Tricia & Lou Carella	Colin Curtin
Lacy Asbill	Jacqueline Carson	Marya D'Abate
Nancy Auker	Kathleen Caskey	Mark Danforth

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 Tom Kaun
 King Family
 Erin Knott
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 Loretta Willis & Mark Ramsey
 Robin Wilson
 Stephanie Woodbury
 Danuta Zaroda & Mark Whatley
 Tamara & Rob Zirkle



FOLLOW
ON INSTAGRAM



WAYS TO SUPPORT



DONATE

Please consider becoming a monthly donor. Scan the QR code or visit our website at oaklandliteracycoalition.kindful.com to find out how!

The Oakland Literacy Coalition is building space for educators and community members to drive the conversation about the literacy crisis towards a more equitable and beneficial solution for all our students and their families. Give monthly to support those on the leading edge of addressing this crisis in our community.

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.

VOLUNTEER

Invite your colleagues or work friends to volunteer at a book distribution event with the Eat. Learn. Play. bus! Contact julia@oaklandliteracycoalition.org or visit bit.ly/OLCVolunteerApp



www.oaklandliteracycoalition.org