

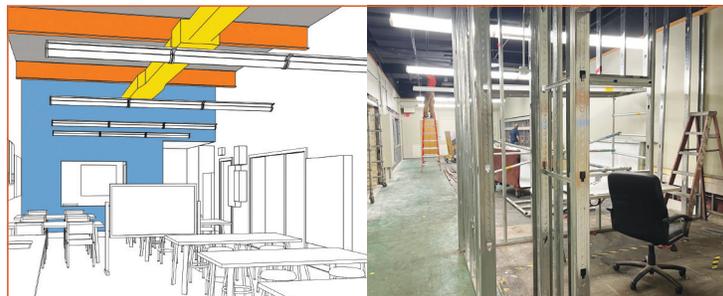
OUR MISSION IS TO SUPPORT THE REDWOOD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY IN CULTIVATING LITERACY, LIFE-LONG LEARNING, AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS.

## From Concept to Reality: Library Makerspace is Taking Shape

Excitement is palpable as curious eyes look through plastic sheeting and the newly framed walls of the Makerspace under construction in the former computer lab in the library. A makerspace is a free community workspace that provides access to technology and tools. Kids, adults, and entrepreneurs will be able to create, experiment, and collaborate in a hands-on learning environment.

RCLF has already raised \$562,000 towards construction and equipping of a Makerspace in the Downtown Library. Construction began in fall 2021 and a **Sneak Preview** will be held for RCLF supporters on Dec. 2, 2021 from 6 to 8 pm. (See invite on this page. RSVP requested.) A VIP Donor Reception for those who have contributed \$1,000 and above will be held from 5:30 to 6:00 pm. A public grand opening is expected in January 2022!

The generous support of the local community was instrumental in helping us initiate the construction phase of the project, and we are now completing fundraising for the last \$50,000 needed to equip and furnish the space in time for our grand opening in January. Please help us reach our goal by purchasing an



Side-by-side images of Makerspace rendering and current construction progress. In the foreground of photo on the right you can see the structural beginnings of the podcast studio.

item from our Amazon Wish List at [www.rclfdn.org/makerspace](http://www.rclfdn.org/makerspace) (or scan QR code here).

We are grateful to the SAGA Foundation for their generous support of this community project.



SCAN ME



*“Having this innovative idea come to fruition as we exit the pandemic is perfect timing. We look forward to seeing the community come together to collaborate and create in this dynamic new setting.”*

~David J. Bartoshuk  
 President, SAGA Foundation

This Library Makerspace will be the only makerspace in southern San Mateo County to serve families with young children. A robust makerspace introduces children to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) and advances literacy and early learning, with special emphasis towards girls and minorities who are not equally represented in STEM careers. There is ample anecdotal evidence that making STEAM fun and engaging early through exposure to building, design, hands-on interaction with various materials, manipulation of tools, etc. helps children, especially girls, develop interest in STEM careers.

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## Makerspace Sneak Preview

### for RCLF Supporters

Thursday, December 2, 2021 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
 Redwood City Downtown Library (rear parking lot)

RSVP: <https://paybee.io/@rclf@7>  
 \$20 suggested donation  
 Maker activities & Makerspace tours offered

**(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)**

Makerspaces offer equipment, supplies, tools, software, and programming featuring open hours, classes, and workshops. Families and students are introduced to and may use equipment such as:

- Technology tools, including 3D printers, a laser cutter, digital design and modeling software, with opportunities to learn about robotics and electronics for the creation of signs, small toys, prototypes, etc.
- Sewing machines and hand crafting tools for the creation of masks, reusable bags, jewelry, scrapbooks, fiber arts, etc.
- Hand tools, including gardening tools, and art supplies for projects with leather, painting, sculpting, paper crafts, etc.
- **(And for adults)** Shared collaboration spaces, including easily reconfigurable workshop tables and seating, white boards, large screen monitors, a video conferencing/audio recording/podcasting space, and photography equipment.

Our Library Makerspace will provide community members with equitable access to technology and tools that are not readily accessible or affordable. Please join us in supporting the Library Makerspace by donating today. We look forward to creating, tinkering, and innovating with you!

**Top 5 Benefits of a Makerspace:**

- 1 Provides the opportunity to innovate
- 2 Creates real-world applications for classroom concepts
- 3 Teaches resilience & learning to take failure in stride
- 4 Exposes new audiences to maker opportunities
- 5 Helps build critical thinking & problem-solving skills

**Meet Our New Board President: Debbi Jones-Thomas**

Debbi grew up in rural Kentucky, the youngest of 13 and the first in her family to go to college. After graduating from Morehead State University, she got her Master's degree in Educational Psychology and Counseling from the University of Kentucky, Louisville. She then taught high school and worked as a research analyst for the University of Kentucky Education Foundation. In 1978 Debbi became Housing Coordinator for Redwood City, finding room and board for low-income and special-needs citizens. She held that position for more than 33 years.

Debbi utilized mentoring resources in the Police Activities League (PAL) and Project READ at the Redwood City Library to provide her son with educational enhancement and social life skills through the difficult middle school years. He is now over 30 and living in Lexington, Kentucky, where he is a musician and community activist and works for the local NPR affiliate WUKY.

Although she retired in 2010, Debbi is still very active in Redwood City. In addition to the RCLF board, she is on the board of the Kainos Home and Training Center and is executive secretary on the PAL board. In her spare time, Debbi likes to read, cook, garden, and raise house plants. We are lucky to have her as our new board president.

Debbi's thoughts about being president of the Library Foundation:

*“One of my favorite things about libraries is reading—the foundation of almost everything we do. During the pandemic when libraries were closed, many of us read books from the little libraries in our neighborhood that were filled with children’s and adult books alike. It allowed us to escape and be entertained, and it fed our curiosity to continue learning despite being locked down for months. This is one of the many reasons why I continue to support the Redwood City Library Foundation. I also want the opportunities my son accessed to be available to other students as they too learn to conquer the endless possibilities in life. The RCLF exists because of you and your generous contributions to enhance and enrich Redwood City’s wonderful library system. Thank you for your ongoing partnership which makes it possible to fund special programs and projects to serve our entire community. Stay tuned for the next innovative efforts that will provide even more resources!”*





Windy



Ian

## Community Enthusiastic about New Makerspace

We asked Windy Orviss, a teacher at Connect Community Charter School in Redwood City, and Ian Spiro, a local father and tinkerer who works at Google, to tell us about what they are looking forward to with the Makerspace opening, and how they foresee the Redwood City community making the most of this new library resource.

Windy is looking forward to introducing the Makerspace to her students, who are primarily from low-income families. "At school, I focus on project-based learning, where the kids do various creative projects to acquire deeper knowledge and learn how to collaborate with each other. I have a makeshift fab lab, which is just a closet full of stuff accumulated over the years. I'm excited about the kids being able to use the Makerspace with state-of-the-art equipment and I hope it motivates them to explore further and solve challenges."

Ian is keen on seeing the space as a creative outlet for members of the community. "It's satisfying to use maker tools to create solutions for the little problems in your life, for example, an organizer tray for a game with many small pieces. It's fun to make utterly bespoke things for your friends and family."

Windy, as a Girl Scout leader, intends to show her troop around the new Makerspace to help them earn their STEM badges. "I'm looking forward to bringing the kids here on a field trip. What a great way to engage younger students and open their eyes to future careers they may not even be thinking about!"

Ian and Windy both have great ideas to help our community get started with using the Library Makerspace. Ian says "I'd like to see some easy, customizable starter projects to help people succeed. How about laser cut thermometers to test our superlative climate?" Windy would love to see classes, like robotics, sewing or 3D printing, available to the community. "The library can introduce skills and access to equipment and tools that many parents in the community could not otherwise afford."

## Join Us in Welcoming Our New Board Members

The Foundation added six amazing women to the board of directors this year: Diana James-Cairns, Gina Meyers, Michelle Rick, Maria Sanchez, Shwetha Shankar, and Megan Wong. We are excited to welcome this group and their unique talents! See our website for complete list of board members.

We are always looking for passionate, civic-minded people who value teamwork and care deeply about our city, our community, and our libraries. This important group does everything from strategic planning to event planning. If you are looking for a way to make a difference, join the Redwood City Library Foundation Board and learn how you can help cultivate literacy, life-long learning and community connections. Send us a message at [www.rclfdn.org/volunteer](http://www.rclfdn.org/volunteer).



Diana James-Cairns



Gina Meyers



Michelle Rick



Maria Sanchez



Shwetha Shankar



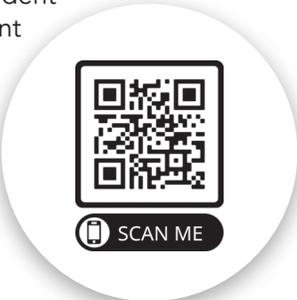
Megan Wong



Many thanks to all the members of our Makerspace Community Advisory Group for helping to promote & fundraise for this project!

# Celebrate Giving Tuesday November 30, 2021

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 by the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street YMCA in New York City as a day that encourages people to do good. Giving Tuesday is now an independent nonprofit and a global movement that inspires hundreds of millions of people in over 70 countries to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. You can participate in Giving Tuesday by donating to the RCLF using the Donate button on the website or the QR code here.



## Current RCLF Initiatives

Your gifts promote literacy and build community for all ages through the following initiatives:

### Makerspace

A community workspace in the Downtown Library that promotes curiosity and creativity by providing access to technologies, tools, and craft making equipment.

### Bridging the Digital Divide

Digital literacy tools, including computers, data and annual software licenses, and hotspot devices.

### Interpretive Center Upgrades - Redwood Shores Library

Updates and improvements to the decade-old educational center, where children can learn about the SF Bay and its wetlands through interactive displays and games.

### Career Online High School in the Library

An 18-month program for adult learners to earn a high school diploma and career certificate with support from library personnel.



## Redwood City Library FOUNDATION

Supporting Your Library for Today and Tomorrow

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