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Sonoma County
Public Library Foundation

The MORE that you READ, the More THINGS you will KNOW.

The MORE you LEARN, the More PLACES you'll GO!

~ Dr. Seuss

## SONOMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION



**FOUNDED IN 1988** 



Strengthening the ability of the Sonoma County Library to serve our community by raising funds to support the library, and to promote the use of library resources, enthusiasm for reading, and increased literacy for all Sonoma County residents.

## Who says libraries are dying?

## Not dying

Just evolving...



There were 1.5 billion in-person visits to public libraries across the United States.

## LIBRARIES ARE AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITIES

 A resource for people of any age to find what they need to help improve their quality of life.



## LIBRARIES ARE COMMUNITY CENTERS

"People may go to the library looking mainly for information, but they find each other there."





### LIBRARIES ARE TECHNOLOGY HUBS

Offer programs in technology, career and college readiness, innovation and entrepreneurship - all 21st-century skills, essential for success in today's economy.



## BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

A digital divide, which widens in rural and lowincome areas, coupled with a national financial crisis means that libraries play a crucial role in bridging the gap between those with access to computers and the Internet, and those without.



### LIBRARIES PROVIDING ACCESS

- •100% of public libraries offer free public Internet access
- •90.5% of public libraries offer Wi-Fi
- •64.5% of public libraries report they are the <u>only</u> <u>free provider</u> of Internet access in their community
- •60.2% of libraries reported increased usage of workstations over the previous year

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT





The vast majority of libraries provide programs that support people in

- Applying for jobs (73 percent),
- Access and using online job opportunity resources (68 percent),
- Using online business information resources (48 percent);







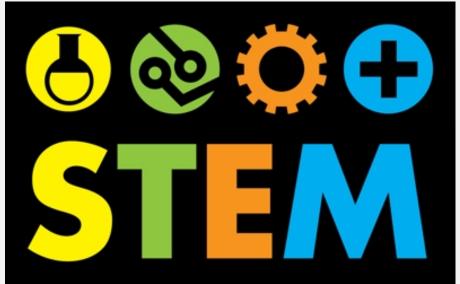
# LIBRARIES AND INNOVATION

**IDEA BOXES** 

MAKER SPACES — WORKSHOP AREAS THAT ENCOURAGE TINKERING AND CREATING — AND OTHER INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY SPACES HAVE BEEN POPPING UP IN UNEXPECTED PLACES.

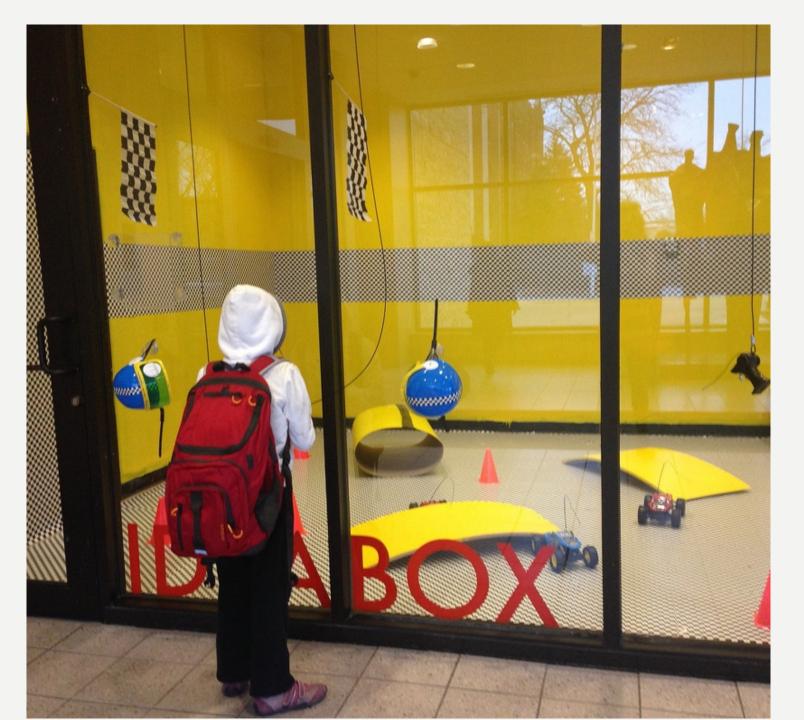
One of the newest homes for these collaborative environments has been in public libraries. Many of these spaces expose young learners to STEM skills, and help kids make the connection between what they learn in classrooms and realworld applications.





Inside a glass room in Main Library in uptown Charlotte, you'll hear the whirring of machines. It's the sound of learning and comes from "Idea Box," a makerspace that opened to the public in 2015.





Oak park Public Library, Illinois



# LIBRARIES PROVIDE KEY SERVICES

Public librarians know their communities firsthand, and are often the first to recognize a pressing local need, simply because they interact on a daily basis with patrons from all walks of life.



#### This is not all.

Libraries are expanding beyond their traditional roles and reaching further into their communities.





Seen and Heard Program in Santa Rosa 2015

Visual Histories of Homelessness in Sonoma County

Library staff play a crucial role in connecting teens to the community agencies and individuals that can best meet their needs.





Once again, in the summer of 2016, the Sonoma County Library will be offering summer meals to children ages 0-18 through a partnership with the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Low income children who are eligible to receive a free lunch at school each day often go hungry when school is out during the summer. Summer meal programs like Lunch at the Library help ensure that these hungry children are fed.

## LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAMS PREVENTING SUMMER LEARNING LOSS

- When young people aren't engaged in educational activities during the summer, they experience learning loss.
- Sonoma County Library is preparing to take children, teens, and adults on a reading adventure this summer, beginning on June 7th.
- Last year's program, "Every Hero Has a Story" had more than 5,300 children, 730 teens, and 1,100 adults participate.





# FOUNDATION MINI GRANTS PROGRAM



### MINI GRANTS PROGRAM

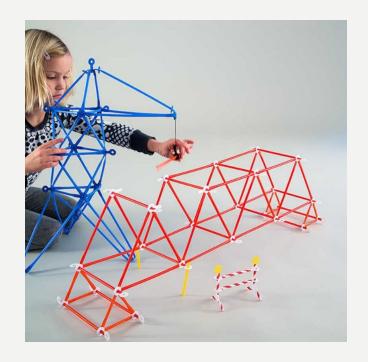
- SCPLF Mini Grant's Program was established in 2015.
- Applicants apply for mini grants up to \$2,000 for creative projects inspired by librarians. These are programs that are outside of the library's operating budget.
- Foundation sets aside \$25,000 each year for this grant program. 3 grant cycles per year.



#### BUILD CLUBS

Help
Children
Learn
through play

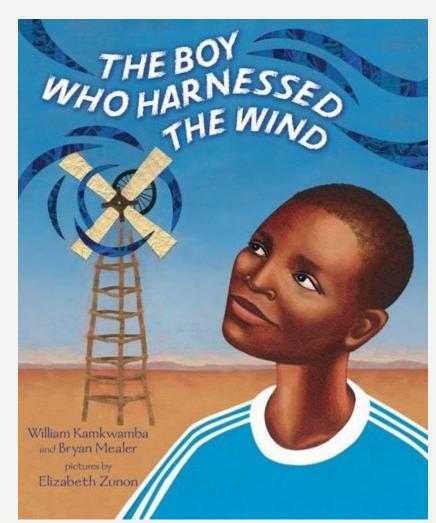
Several branches of Sonoma County Library are now offering monthly "Build Club" events, which are not only a fun and engaging activity for a variety of kids, but also are great opportunities for children to get hands-on engineering and problem-solving exercise with ageappropriate materials. Build Clubs are built on finite materials with infinite potential.

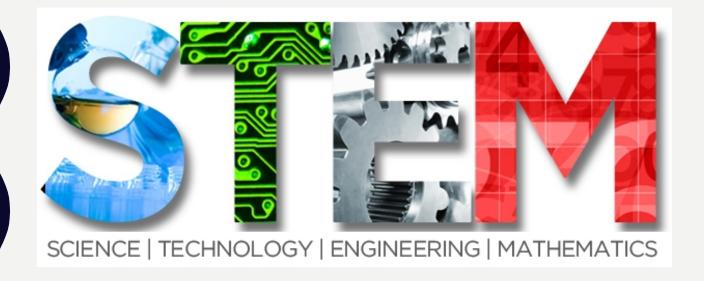




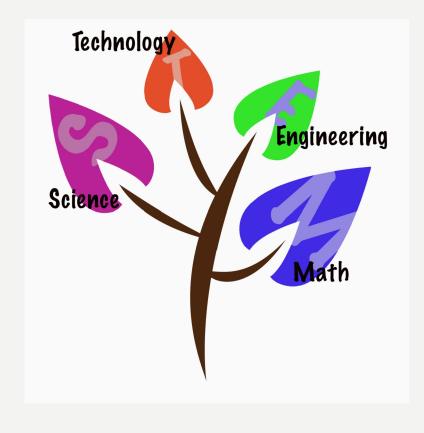
## TEENS IN ACTION: READING & COMMUNITY SERVICE

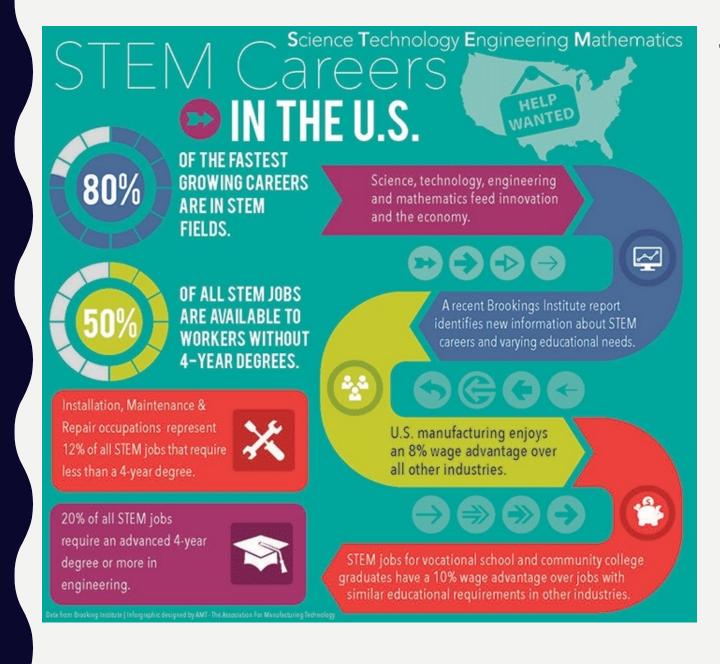
- Middle school students will read a book that connects them with the engineering profession, crafted electronics, and to service in their community.
- In Fall 2016, eighty seventh grade students at two local schools will read *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba.





This project will focus on teaching students the basics of electrical current by creating electrified projects using conductive thread and LED lights (Digital Bling Bookmark craft). The Digital Bling kit will be gifted to the classrooms in order to give teachers the tools they need to support STEM education with their students.





The United States has developed as a global leader, in large part, through the genius and hard work of its scientists, engineers, and innovators.



## SONOMA COUNTY LIBRARY

- Welcomes over2 million visitorseach year
- •2 million people visit us online annually





#### **ABOUT OUR LOCAL LIBRARIES**

- 14 Branch Libraries
- 222,400 active library cards
- 3.3 million items checked out in 2015
- Library has a budget of 17 million
- 130 FTE
- 180 positions

# 30,000 CHILDREN ATTEND LIBRARY READING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.







#### CHALLENGES THE LIBRARY IS FACING

- Sonoma County Library is operating with decreased revenues but has seen increased costs for books/materials.
  - -Since 2011, the Library has had to cut hours by 25%
  - -Many children's educational classes/programs funded solely through volunteer fundraising, not the Library, due to lack of available funds
  - -Overall access to our libraries has been reduced

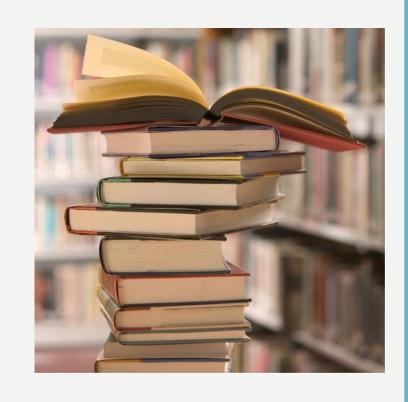
#### **EFFECTS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

- Funding cuts have reduced our educational classes and events for the 30,000+ school and pre-school children who use our libraries each year.
- Our libraries support and expand the mission of school libraries for students' education, particularly as many schools have less funds for these types of services.



### WE NEED TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

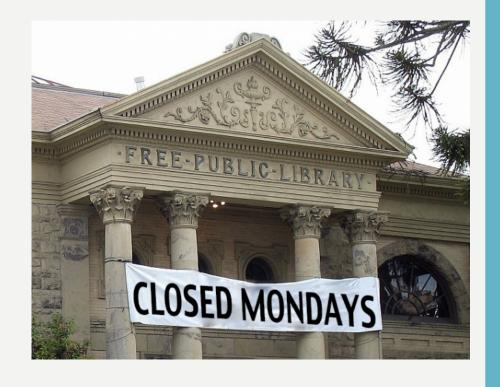
- -Homework help
- -Computer labs
- Up-to-date children's books/materials collections
- -Teacher resources
- -Summer reading clubs for children/teens
- Creating opportunities for cooperative services between the Library and local schools



#### **IMPROVING ACCESS**

Additional funds would allow us to restore library hours and services at all local branches, improving access to this valuable community resource.

We must ensure library resources remain available for all.



#### WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- Any solution would need to include funds that will be controlled locally, for local libraries, and could not be taken by the State.
- Sonoma County Library is completely separate from county government, is governed independently, and the County Board of Supervisors currently provides no funding for library services.
- At this time, no sources of revenue exist to restore the library services our residents need.

### ADDITIONAL FUNDS CAN SUPPORT KEY LIBRARY SERVICES

- Keep qualified librarians
- Maintain children's books and materials
- Maintain library facilities
- Continue reading clubs and classes for children and teens

search éngine

- Provide safe places for children after school
- Expand senior and disabled services
- Restore library hours

#### RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS



- Sonoma County Library recently completed its Strategic Plan
- Extensive involvement from residents to create a community-driven vision for local libraries
- -sonomalibrary.org/about/strat egicplan

### WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR LIBRARIES?

- The Library is working to implement its new strategic plan
  - -sonomalibrary.org/about/strategicplan
- We need your input!
- Join the community conversation and let us know what's most important to you.
- Please complete the Community Feedback Survey.

"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers. A librarian can bring you back the right one."

<u>Neil Gaiman</u>