



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**The Seattle Public Library Foundation**

**Address:**  
1000 Fourth Ave  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Contact:**  
(206) 386-4130  
<https://supportspl.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Provides funding for additional resources, programs and services that take our library system to a new level of excellence.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2022 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from The Seattle Public Library Foundation.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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# The Seattle Public Library Foundation

December 27, 2022

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund

██████████  
8802 27th Avenue NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

Dear Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund Trustees,

On behalf of The Seattle Public Library Foundation, I want to thank you for your support of The Seattle Public Library’s Raising A Reader program with a grant of ██████████ for the 2021-22 year (code Q1 2022 14.2).

The Raising A Reader (RAR) program, a key initiative within The Seattle Public Library’s Youth & Family Learning Programs, works with early learning centers and home care providers to support low-income and immigrant families of color in building strong reading practices and cultures in their homes. RAR’s mission is to work with low-income families, especially those who do not speak English, to develop pre-reading skills and promote daily “book cuddling” between parents or caregivers and their children.

The program serves as a connector between children and their families and their local library branches. The program encourages attending Library story times, which are offered in English, Spanish, Somali, Chinese, and other world languages. In response to the pandemic, story times have been offered virtually, with in-person or hybrid models now resuming.

In the 2021-22 program year, 1,119 children, ages 18 months to 5 years, participated. Enrollment is up over last year and is continuing to increase back toward pre-pandemic program numbers. Ultimately, all program goals were met: books were put in the hands of children and families, and parents/caregivers participated in reading aloud and virtual story times. Materials were distributed to increase parental knowledge of child development and to share tips on building book sharing routines.

This program year also saw several service enhancements. 2021 was the start of the Library’s new partnership with Seattle Public Schools. Previously, Raising A Reader was only implemented in Head Start classrooms. This partnership expanded services to Seattle Preschool Program and Seattle Preschool Plus classrooms.

Also this year, SPL offered virtual Spanish early learning programs for Parent-Child Plus and Parents As Teachers programs. These are the home visiting programs that serve our youngest Raising A Reader participants. These programs were facilitated in partnership with King County Library system.

With a commitment to equity and a desire to meet the needs of every Seattleite, the Library strives to listen to the public and allow them to shape what services they want to see. As part of this commitment, parents and caregivers who participate in RAR are surveyed throughout the program, with follow-up calls made as needed. This year, the surveys were offered in 15 languages, and in the 2022-23 program, the multilingual survey will be available online.

Highlights from the 2021-22 post-program survey included:

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- 83% of parents/caregivers reported attending at least one library literacy event at their child's school or early learning center
- 67% of parents/caregivers reported reading daily with their child
- 65% of parents/caregivers reported an increase in knowledge of early literacy practices and ways to support their child in learning

Partner and participant feedback from the survey included:

- “This program really gives us a chance to promote reading for enjoyment. It is not how many you read or what level the books are in. We are focused on quality family time and a love for learning through books.” – Teacher, Roxhill Head Start
- “We are so happy to bring back the Raising A Reader program, it is beginning to feel like a standard program year for us after such a long time virtually. I am ready to get my kids excited about book sharing with their families. They are already asking when it is time for the red bags!” – Teacher, A for Apple
- “I like to carry my bag of books, it is red and has my name on it.” – Head Start participant, age 4
- “I think I am just as excited as he is when it is book bag day. I am enjoying the books in the lending library.” – Parent, Seattle Preschool Program
- “We proudly display our pocket chart in the front of our classroom [see bottom right photo]. The children are very excited on check-out days when we remove the yellow cards and record new books going home.” – Teacher, Roxhill Head Start

We are most grateful for the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund’s generous support as the Library continues serving our community’s youngest readers. If you have further questions about this report, please let me know. Many thanks for your investment in the Library’s Early Literacy Programs!

Sincerely,

Kara McDonald  
 Director of Philanthropy and Planned Giving  
[www.supportspl.org](http://www.supportspl.org) (Foundation) / [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org) (Library)



Photos from the 2021-22 program year, left to right: Participants at A 4 Apple Learning Center; Program Manager CiKeithia Pugh with a teacher at Roxhill Head Start; and the Pocket Chart for check-out.