

*"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."*

~AESOP



# SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES FOUNDATION 2022 IMPACT REPORT

[sno-islefoundation.org](https://sno-islefoundation.org)



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### **Mission**

Our mission is to mobilize people and resources to expand the reach of library services, promote civic engagement, and foster a lifetime of learning.



### **Vision**

Our vision is to have everyone in our community connected to their library.



### **Core Values**

Our values are community, equity, inclusion, respect, learning, and a welcoming environment.

# A Time for Growth!



*Luke Distelhorst*

**Luke Distelhorst**  
Board President

2022 has been an exciting time for growth at the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation. New board members, new database, grant awards, and supporting library remodels are just some of the exciting accomplishments made possible from the collective philanthropic impact of dedicated individuals, businesses, and foundations who share our passion for public libraries and building stronger communities.

One of our goals going into 2022 was to grow our Board of Directors. We welcomed five new directors to broaden philanthropic support of the library, and further strengthen Foundation leadership. We will continue to expand the communities represented on the board in the coming months. We also launched a new quarterly newsletter, Giving Connector, to better engage with our community.

Alongside infrastructure improvements, diversifying our funding sources has been a key priority. Our 2022 Library Giving Day, GiveBIG, and end-of-year campaigns enjoyed strong community participation, raising a record \$130,000, and we welcomed an impressive 600 new library donors to our family of supporters. We also celebrated the Foundation's largest grant to date, a two-year operational award from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation totaling \$100,000. Growing our grant funding and community contributions directly impacts our libraries, and we are grateful to each and every donor for their trust and support.

The Foundation continued supporting the library system on several large capital projects to create new, inspiring spaces at our community libraries. We have secured over \$987,000 in capital funding to invest in library spaces and renovations currently underway. Sno-Isle Libraries anticipates welcoming our communities into two remodeled libraries later this year, and we cannot wait to celebrate together in our beautiful new library spaces.

The Foundation continued to serve diverse communities to help increase equitable access to knowledge and resources and ensure that everyone in our community feels represented in their library. Our board and staff remain committed to advancing equity and inclusion throughout the library district. In addition to funding early literacy programs like Third Graders Read Together and Summer Reading, we are excited to expand our support of programs celebrating Sno-Isle Libraries' diverse communities, including World Language Storytimes, programming for older adults, and Prime Time, a family reading initiative.

And this is just the beginning! We look forward to our continued partnership with you in growing the Foundation's impact and support of our community libraries.



*Christina Kourteva*

**Christina Kourteva**  
Executive Director,  
Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation

# Continuing Our Partnership



*Lois Langer Thompson*

## **Lois Langer Thompson**

Executive Director,  
Sno-Isle Libraries

In 2022, we celebrated 60 years of connecting people through ideas and community. Over the last 60 years, Sno-Isle Libraries has remained true to the role of a public library while evolving with the world we live in to embrace new opportunities.

We are grateful for the generous support from the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation which enhances our services and programs. The Foundation's investment in early literacy and building home libraries helps drive our Summer Reading and Third Graders Read Together programs.

Our partnership with the Foundation will continue to foster new opportunities and support our goal to create inspiring and welcoming spaces.

We will continue to find new ways to bring you the library you love. You have a place at your library.

We look forward to what the next 60 years will bring.



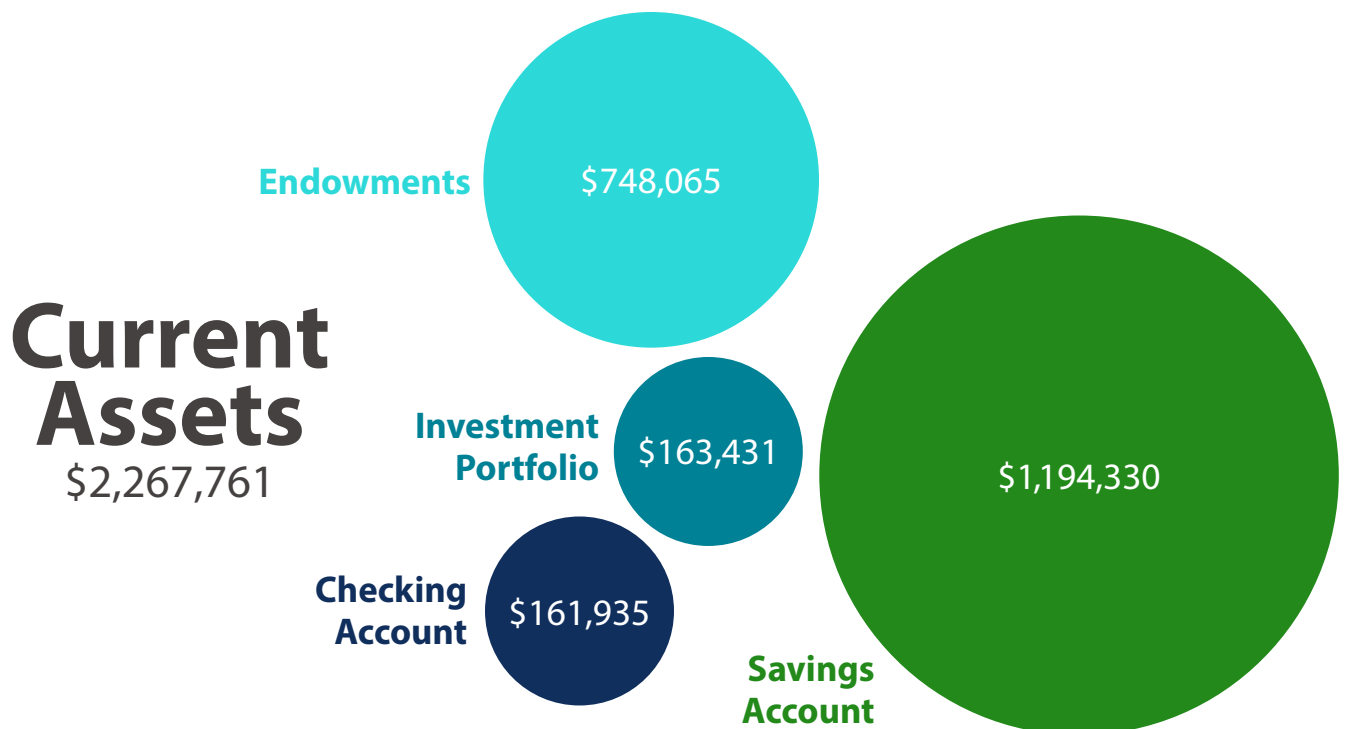
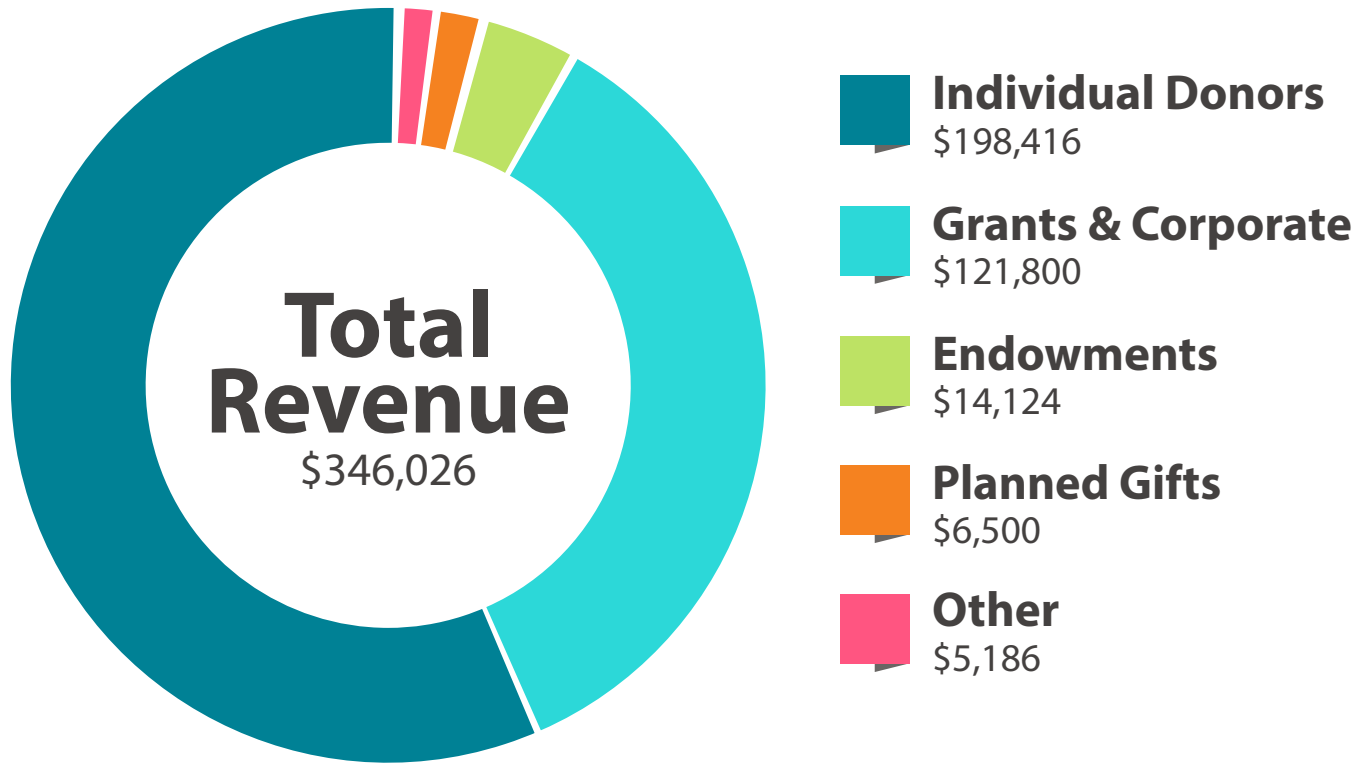
*When I think of Sno-Isle Libraries and the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation, the word that comes to mind is "community." In over 20 years of involvement with Sno-Isle Libraries, that is what I have most appreciated. Each of the 23 libraries is an important partner with the people and organizations in their local community. Sno-Isle Libraries has supported schools and families through the Third Graders Read Together program, a critical age to build excitement about reading, leading to future success academically and in life. Community-wide reading through book discussion groups and Whidbey Reads, now in its 20th year, brings community members together to connect over books. The Trudy Sundberg Lecture Series with the support of the Foundation and many community sponsors has brought an eminent speaker each year to inspire and educate residents. Public internet access, online databases, children's Storytimes, and legal, medical, and consumer information are just a few of the free services available to all. I am pleased to provide continued support for our libraries.*



— Becky Bolte,  
Oak Harbor Resident



# 2022 Financials



# 2022 Foundation Highlights



## Inspiring the next generation of readers

During the 2022-23 school year, the Foundation continued its support of Third Graders Read Together, a partnership program between Sno-Isle Libraries and local schools that fosters a love of reading during a critical age. The program added Washington Library Association OTTER Award nominated books for students to read and then vote for their favorite. **Funding from the Foundation made it possible to:**

- Bring Third Graders Read Together to 65 schools and 4,200 third graders in Snohomish and Island counties.
- Purchase 2,440 OTTER Award books for participating schools.
- Host two online events with Anoosha Syed, illustrator of *Monster and Boy* and Jonathan Messenger, author of *The Alien Adventures of Finn Caspian*, attended by 800 third graders.
- Host two online tie-in programs outside of school hours:
  - *Oxbow's Virtual Farm Adventure* – Families could “step” into Oxbow’s world to learn how they organically grow food, and about the landscape and plants.
  - *Monster Scribble Art with FatBrush Workshop* – Kids were encouraged to let their imagination flow, creating their own monsters from scribbles.





## Kick-started the Arlington Library Remodel

In the spring of 2022, the Foundation invested \$20,000 for a much-needed roof replacement for the Arlington Library.

The new blue metal roof is the first of many exciting upgrades the Foundation will support for the Arlington Library to create a welcoming and inspiring space for all to enjoy.



Summer Reading display  
at Mountlake Terrace Library

## Creating Oceans of Possibilities with Summer Reading

In 2022, the Sno-Isle Libraries Summer Reading program encouraged a love of reading among 5,472 readers and inspired a total of 2.2 million minutes read! Research indicates that youth involved in summer activities that include reading, learning, and hands-on discovery begin the new school year better prepared. **With support from the Foundation, our Summer Reading program was able to:**

- Purchase prize books for program finishers at the Mariner, Lakewood/Smokey Point, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, and Stanwood libraries.
- Distribute 1,500 prize books to program participants at 14 Boys & Girls Clubs.
- Organize fun in-person activities, such as *Encounter Dinosaurs with the Dinocrew!* at the Snohomish Library, *Stay and Play with Ms. Inseon* at the Marysville Library, and seven online programs in partnership with community organizations, including the Museum of Flight, Deception Pass State Park, and Pacific NW Ballet.



**5,472**  
READERS



**2.2 million**  
MINUTES READ

## Sustaining Sno-Isle's Demonstration Libraries

The Foundation continued to support the Mariner and Lakewood/Smokey Point demonstration libraries by providing a total of \$91,170 towards their annual lease expenses. Today both libraries ensure their local communities have access to a full range of library services and activities. In 2022, the Mariner Library had 54,632 checkouts and the Lakewood/Smokey Point Library had 51,441 checkouts. In 2022, both libraries continued to serve more people with a total of 2,486 new library card users.

Mariner Library



Lakewood/Smokey Point Library

## Highlighting Scandinavian Heritage

The Nysether Family Collection, established in 2007 in honor of Eldon and Shirley Nysether, enriches the Sno-Isle Libraries collection. Thanks to generous support from the Nysether Family Foundation, in 2022 we invested \$7,850 in 96 new books and other materials with a focus on Scandinavian countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland). This rich collection explores all things Nordic – from Vikings and fairy tales to baking, knitting, interior design, and so much more, all available with your library card! **Scan the code for a complete list of books from the Nysether Family Collection.**



## \$100,000 Grant Propels the Foundation Forward

In October 2022, the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation was awarded a generous two-year \$100,000 general operating support grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. This is the largest grant award to date in the history of the Foundation. The funds will be invested in early literacy efforts, programs with a focus on social justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, and capital improvements throughout the Library District.

We are honored to be the recipient of this generous contribution. This is a testament to the value of public libraries and enables us to adapt and respond to current and emerging community needs.





# Thank you for being a champion for public libraries!



Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation is grateful for the generosity of our community of supporters in 2022. Your contributions enable us to continue to fund innovative and inspiring programs throughout the Sno-Isle Library District.

## \$50,000 - \$10,000

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Humanities Washington  
Nysether Family Foundation

## \$9,999 - \$5,000

Anonymous  
Karen Hansen  
*in Memory of Bette Phillips*  
The Dorothy Koch Family Foundation  
James Kudebeh & Catherine Carbone  
Friends of the Mountlake Terrace Library  
Nysether Collection Endowment  
Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation Endowment  
Thomas & Martha Walker  
Whidbey Community Foundation

## \$4,999 - \$1,000

Anonymous  
Marti Anamosa & Duane Fulgham  
Linda Arink  
Art of the Pie LLC  
Steven & Connie Ballmer  
Oren & Gay Campbell  
Clarence Cheng & Margaret Kwun  
Friends of the Clinton Library  
Friends of the Coupeville Library  
Jackie & Frank DeFazio

## \$4,999 - \$1,000

*(continued)*

Thomas Delanty  
Dunsire Family Foundation  
Friends of the Freeland Library  
Clyde & Sandra Johnson  
Laura Kellogg  
Andrew & Mary Katherine Koons  
Daniel LaFond  
Melissa Lafranchise  
Friends of the Langley Library  
Kevin & Kathleen Leopard  
Tom Linder & Beth Blosten  
Sandra J. Moss  
R. Scott Neely  
Mark & Vickie Nysether  
Friends of the Oak Harbor Library  
Rose & Craig Olson  
Karen Pasewark  
Jan Pickard & Anne Harvey  
Ted & Teresa Rihn  
Daniel Rogge  
Gail Sailer  
The Seattle Times  
Karen Shoaf-Mitchell & Robert Mitchell  
Taney Stewart  
Michael & Alice Taylor  
Jeff & Lois Thompson  
Sonia Siegel Vexler  
Laura Victor  
*in Memory of Trudy Sundberg*  
Raymond Zhang

## \$999-\$500

Barb Adams  
Anonymous  
Mary Anderson  
George Andexler  
Elizabeth Arand  
Joan Benedusi  
Laurette Berglund  
Gary & Nancy Berner  
Deborah Brainerd  
Gary & Sharon Broughton  
Rebecca Chawgo  
Juliette & Karl Christensen  
Martha Clatterbaugh  
The Cunliffe Family Charitable Fund  
Caryl & Tennis de Jong  
Debamitra Dutta  
City of Edmonds  
Ellingson Jubilee Fund  
Geraldine Faley  
Michael Feinberg  
Nancy Hasson  
Michelle Hebner  
Mary Hervol  
Katherine Janeway  
*in Memory of Trudy Sundberg*  
Lucie Johns  
Daniel & Tressa Kentner  
Mary & Barry Key  
League of Women Voters  
Marilea Lee  
Kenneth Linder  
Jeannie Lisy

## \$999-\$500

*(continued)*

Tom Mayer & Jeanne Thorsen  
Kenneth Merideth  
Nancy Millione  
Friends of the Monroe Library  
Leslie Moore  
Morris/Wilhelm Charitable Fund  
Campbell Nelson  
John & Ingrid Osterhaug  
Steven & Mary Overman  
Ronald & Sheila Pera  
Leigh & Laverne Power  
Conrad Romberg  
Rue and Primavera Occupational Therapy  
SaviBank  
Ian & Annie Service  
Dale & Cherlyn Shoup  
Katherine Smargiassi  
Kelli Smith  
Dolores Soldate  
Michael & Mary Jo Stansbury  
Barbara Steller  
Marie Tapp  
Whidbey Weekly  
Whidbey Island Bank  
Oliver & Caroline Whitehead  
William Whittemore  
Lorraine Wong  
Loran Weldon Wright

## 2022 TRUDY SUNDBERG LECTURE SERIES:

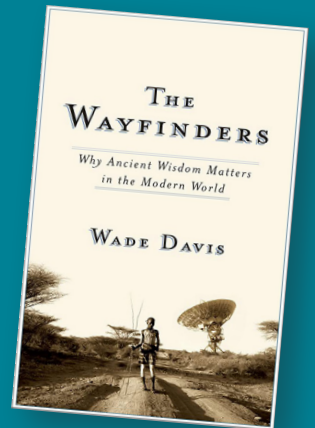
# Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World?



The 2022 Trudy Sundberg Lecture Series brought together more than 225 community members to see featured speaker Dr. Wade Davis, a renowned professor at the University of British Columbia, cultural anthropologist, ethnobotanist, photographer, filmmaker, and author of "The Wayfinders: Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in the Modern World."

The series also connected 250 students with Dr. Davis at South Whidbey High School in Langley.

Dr. Davis' lecture was a celebration of ancient cultures and customs, and a reminder of the importance of preserving and nurturing ancient wisdom. He shared lessons and photographs from his lifelong journey exploring the extraordinary diversity of the world's indigenous cultures and languages. "By their very existence," he writes, "the diverse cultures of the world bear witness to the folly of those who say we cannot change, as we all know we must, the fundamental manner in which we inhabit this planet."



“

*We just moved to Whidbey Island and could not believe Wade Davis was coming to Langley! We have followed him for 12 years. He is a rock star! You can bet we will support the Trudy Sundberg Lectures and will be at the lecture next year.*

”

— 2022 Lecture Attendees

The series honors the legacy of Trudy Sundberg, a beloved Whidbey Island teacher and civic leader who made a profound impact on all who knew her.



## Staying Connected

In 2022, the Foundation launched Giving Connector, our quarterly e-newsletter that helps keep our community up to date on what's new and exciting at the Foundation.

Scan the code or visit [sno-islefoundation.org](https://sno-islefoundation.org) to sign up and stay in touch.

## Foundation Board of Directors

**Luke Distelhorst**, President

**Jackie DeFazio**, Vice President

**Mary Anderson**

**Rim Benoud-Schmitz**

**Heather Croteau**

**Debamitra Dutta**

**Colin McMahon**

**Sami Postma**

**Jeanne Thorsen**

**Sonia Siegel Vexler**

**Ryan Willis**

**Rose Olson**, Sno-Isle Libraries  
Board of Trustees Liaison

## Foundation & Library Staff

**Christina Kourteva**

Foundation Executive Director

**Charlie Easterson**

Administrative Assistant

**Maddy Robles**

Administrative Specialist

**Rebecca Loney**

Sno-Isle Libraries Director of Public Services

**Lois Langer Thompson**

Sno-Isle Libraries Executive Director



*Thank you for your support!*

**CONTACT US**

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