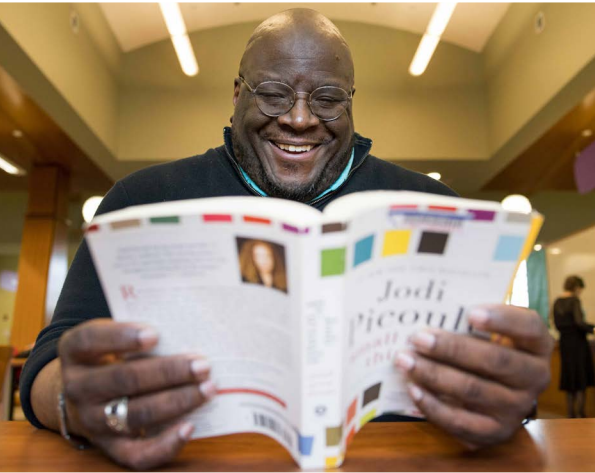


*"The library has been my lifeblood these past few years."*

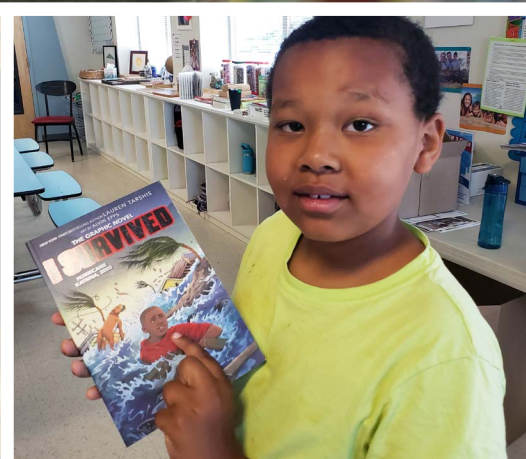
BECKY M., SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES CUSTOMER



SNO-ISLE LIBRARIES  
FOUNDATION

# 2023 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.

# Reaching New Heights



*Christina Kourteva*

**Christina Kourteva**

Executive Director,  
Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation

Thanks to the generosity of our community, 2023 was the Foundation's most successful philanthropic year to date! We raised over \$2.5 million in support of Sno-Isle Libraries, which includes the largest bequest in our history and more than \$700,000 in contributions from individuals, businesses, and foundations. We are grateful to our incredible supporters for believing in the power of libraries to change lives and helping us reach this milestone.

We received a transformational \$1.8 million bequest from the estate of John and Betty Parks to benefit future capital upgrades of the Snohomish Library. As you think about the legacy you want to create for your community, we encourage you to consider including the Foundation in your estate plans to ensure public libraries continue to thrive and serve as cornerstones of democracy for future generations.

We expanded our Foundation Board of Directors with eight new members who bring a wealth of skills and experience and represent diverse communities within the Library District.

Our Library Giving Day, GiveBIG, and end-of-year campaigns raised a record \$168,000, and we welcomed 400 new donors to the Sno-Isle Libraries family of supporters.

The Foundation provided \$140,000 for the remodel of the Darrington Library and in annual lease support for the Mariner and Lakewood/Smokey Point Libraries; supported Sno-Isle Libraries' first-ever Pride Book & Resource Fairs in Langley offering LGBTQIA+ books and resources; and, secured a four-year \$100,000 grant from Education First's Limitless Network, supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to help advance post-secondary student enrollment in the Oak Harbor School District in partnership with Skagit Valley College, Oak Harbor Public Schools, and Sno-Isle Libraries.

Because of the exceptional generosity of supporters like you, the Foundation has committed to doubling its funding of essential library programs and services we'll be supporting in 2024. In addition to staple early literacy programs, such as Third Graders Read Together and Summer Reading, we will provide funding for World Languages Storytimes, Prime Time family programming, youth and adult online programs, Author Talks, Sno-Isle Reads Together, Discover Passes, intergenerational programs, and many other exciting programs and activities across the District.

Your support has had a positive impact on our community. As the scope and work of the Foundation continue to grow, we look forward to our continued partnership with Sno-Isle Libraries and you – our supporters – to ensure our community libraries remain inspiring and welcoming places for all residents of Snohomish and Island counties. Thank you for making a difference!



*Jeanne Thorsen*

**Jeanne Thorsen**

Board President,  
Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation



# Investing in Our Communities



*Lois Langer Thompson*

**Lois Langer Thompson**

Executive Director,  
Sno-Isle Libraries

In 2023, we enhanced library services, created inspiring spaces, and invested in our communities. Libraries have the power to transform lives and shape the future.

We also welcomed our communities back into our newly remodeled libraries in Darrington and Edmonds. We bring people together through community and digital experiences.

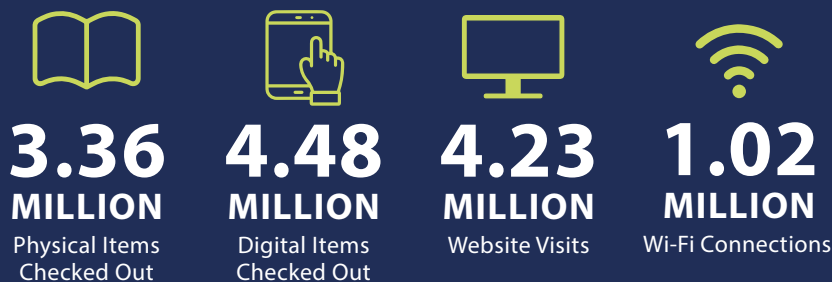
The Foundation's investment in our capital projects supports our goal to create welcoming spaces. We are grateful for the generous support from the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation which enhances our services and programs. The Foundation's commitment to equity and early literacy helps drive our World Language and Summer Reading programs.

Our partnership with the Foundation will continue to foster new opportunities. We will continue to build upon this transformative path to ensure our libraries remain inspirational and valuable for years to come.

Thank you for supporting Sno-Isle Libraries through our Foundation. We look forward to building our future with you.

## How Sno-Isle Libraries Served Our Communities in 2023

**2 Counties • 800K+ Residents • 23 Libraries • 463 Employees**



 **6,477**

**Summer Reading Finishers**

representing more than 2.4 million minutes read and a 95% school participation rate. Over 1,800 books were delivered to kids and teens enrolled at 15 Boys & Girls Clubs.



**121,796**   
**Attendees** at in-person and online events

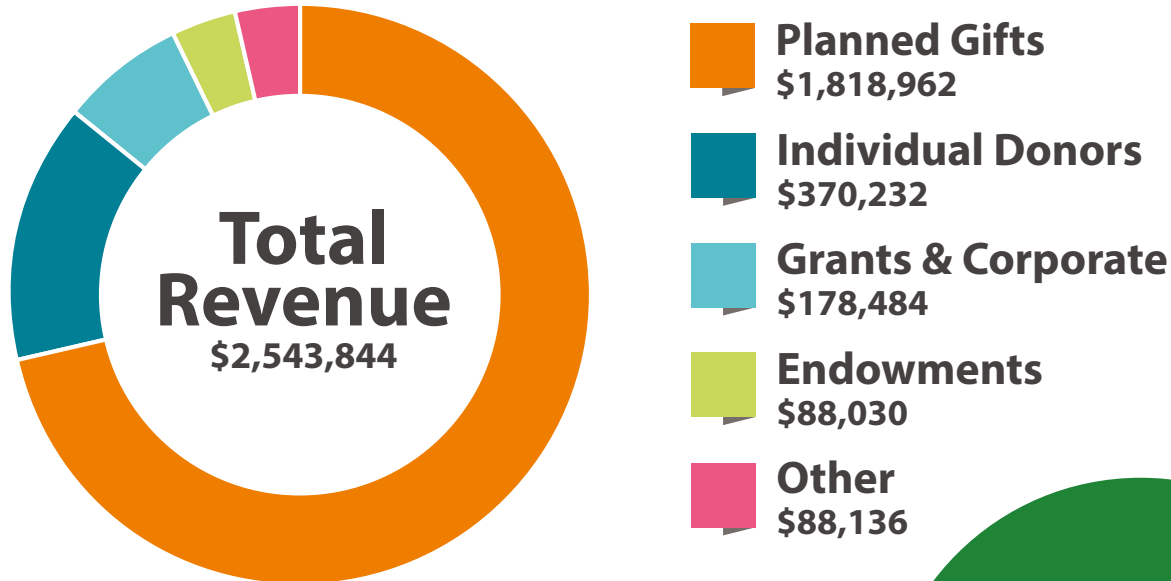
**4,553** 

**Events** (667 online and 3,886 in-person)

 **15,477** **Visits to the Bookmobile**

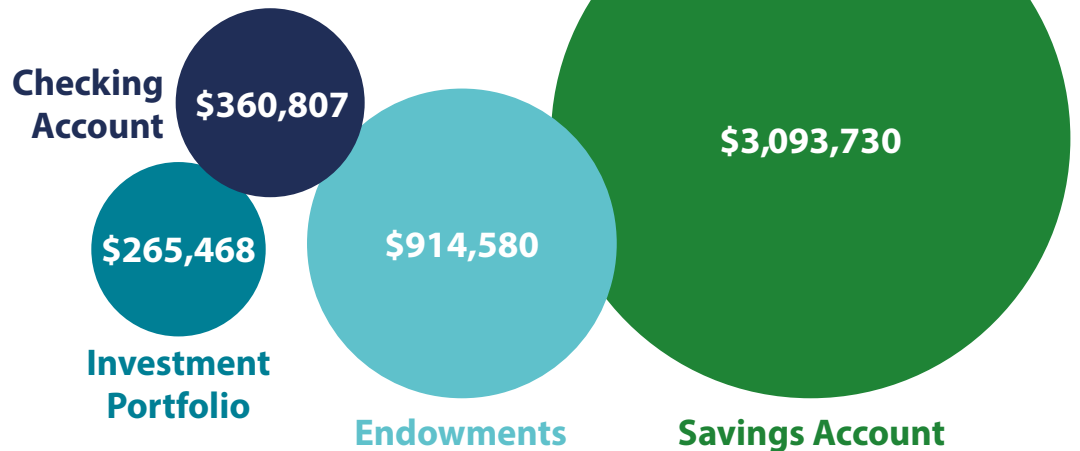
 **46,209**  
**Books Delivered to  
Childcare Centers**

# 2023 Financials



## Current Assets

\$4,634,585

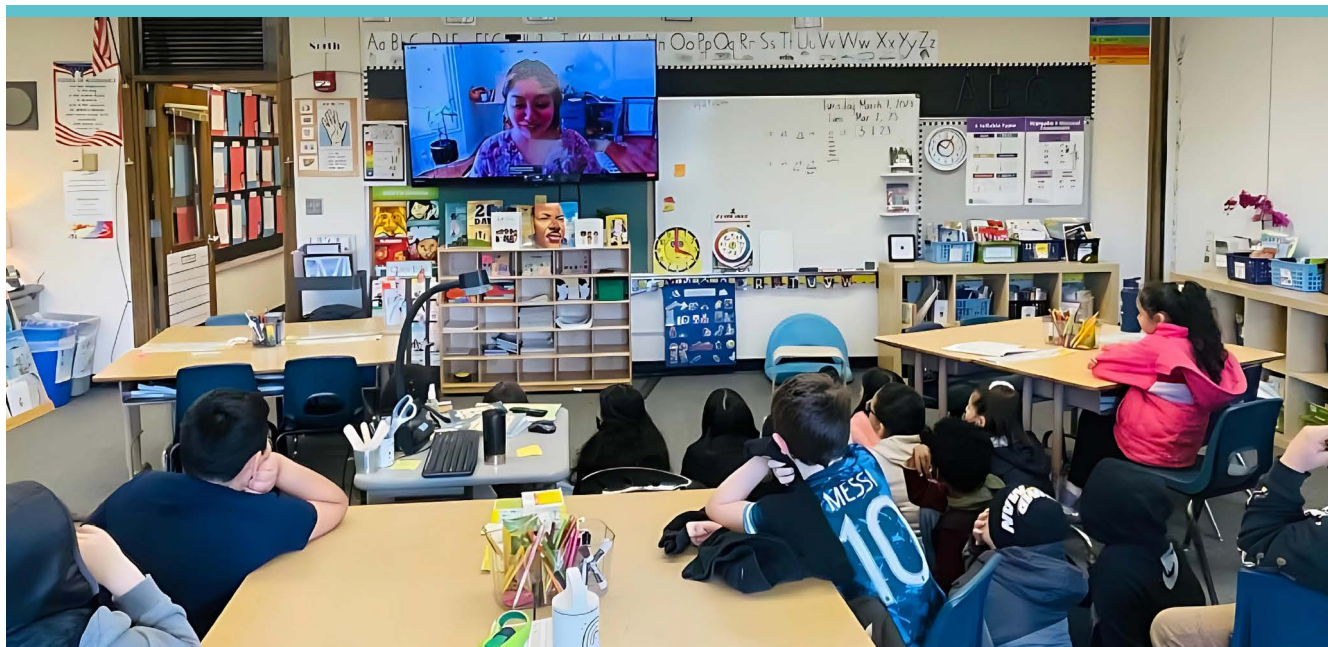


“

*“Wherever I have traveled, I've always sought out and supported the local public library. I'm so thankful to have had a Sno-Isle Libraries card since I moved to Edmonds in 1981. I used CDs and eBooks to accompany me during 38 years of work commutes, walking, yard work, and chores. I've attended author events at the Edmonds and Mukilteo libraries and participated with my daughters in Edmonds Storytimes. Thank you, Sno-Isle Libraries!”*

”

# 2023 Foundation Highlights



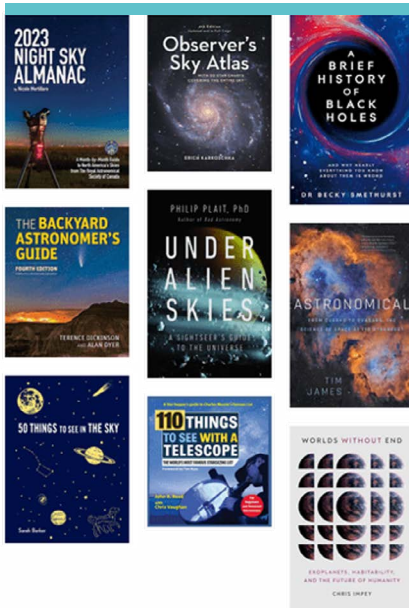
## Fostering a Lifelong Love of Reading

The Foundation continued its support of **Third Graders Read Together**, Sno-Isle Libraries' partnership program with local schools, which encourages children to have fun and enjoy reading while honing their literacy and teamwork skills. The program uses books from the Washington Library Association's OTTER Award, whose motto is, "books kids like, not books adults think kids should like." The support from the Foundation helped provide 2,440 OTTER books to 65 schools and 4,200 third graders throughout the region.



The Foundation provided \$20,000 for Sno-Isle Libraries' **Summer Reading** program. The funding made it possible to distribute 1,800 prize books to participants at 15 Boys & Girls Club locations, provide prize books for program finishers at the Mariner, Lakewood/Smokey Point, Monroe, Mountlake Terrace, and Stanwood libraries, organize fun in-person activities, such as Encounter Dinosaurs with the Dinocrew! at the Snohomish Library, and online programs in partnership with community organizations, including the Museum of Flight, Deception Pass State Park, and Pacific NW Ballet. The 2023 theme was *All Together Now*, highlighting the power of libraries and reading to unite communities and people of all ages. Summer Reading had a record 6,477 readers with over 2.4 million minutes read!





## Enriching the Sno-Isle Libraries Collection

We received an incredibly generous gift of \$125,000 from the Nysether Family Foundation to expand their existing endowment. Since 2007, the Nysether Family endowment, held with the Community Foundation of Snohomish County, has helped enhance our library collection. With support from the endowment, in 2023 we invested \$6,529 in new books and other materials with a focus on astronomy and space exploration. From "A Traveler's Guide to the Stars" and "Quantum Physics for Beginners," to "A Brief History of Black Holes" and "Hubble's Universe," this stellar new addition to the collection has a lot to offer for space enthusiasts and curious minds. Scan the code to view the Nysether Family Collection.



## Advancing Post-secondary Student Enrollment

The Foundation helped secure a \$100,000 Limitless Network grant (\$25,000 annually for the next four academic years) to help drive collaborative efforts between Skagit Valley College, Oak Harbor Public Schools, and Sno-Isle Libraries. This new initiative focuses on strengthening the pathway from high school to post-secondary education and improving post-secondary enrollment rates in the Oak Harbor School District with an emphasis on serving students facing significant barriers, including those from Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities, as well as students from low-income families and rural areas.



## Investing in Inspiring Spaces

The Foundation invested \$50,000 for the remodel of our reimagined **Darrington Library** and helped fund the grand opening celebration. The library's remodeled space brings in the natural landscape from Whitehorse Mountain and the surrounding forest and features a barrier-free design with a welcoming entry, quiet reading places, designated children's area, and an outdoor space.

We continued to support the annual lease expenses for our demonstration libraries, providing \$50,000 to the **Lakewood/Smokey Point Library** and \$40,000 to the **Mariner Library**.



## Commitment to Equity and Inclusion

In June, we celebrated Pride by helping launch Sno-Isle Libraries' first **Pride Book & Resource Fairs** on Whidbey Island. More than 200 residents attended the events and enjoyed free giveaway books with a focus on LGBTQIA+ authors, characters, and themes.

In August, the Foundation supported the annual **Mariner Fest**, a partnership between the Mariner Library, Hand in Hand, and community organizations, which provides back to school supplies and community resources to local families. Over 1,500 community members attended the fest and 750 K-12 students received much-needed backpacks and other supplies for the new school year.



## Our In-Person Events are Back!

In October, over 50 Foundation supporters gathered at the Mukilteo Library for our in-person author salon with acclaimed poet Rena Priest, an enrolled member of the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation and 2021-2023 Washington State Poet Laureate. Rena Priest presented "I Sing the Salmon Home: Poems from Washington State," a unique collection of poems from more than 150 Washington poets ranging from first graders to tribal elders, all inspired by the Northwest's beloved, iconic salmon.

The event was the perfect opportunity to celebrate outgoing board member Jackie DeFazio for her many years of service to the Foundation and Sno-Isle Libraries.



# Thank you for sharing your love of libraries!



We are grateful for the incredible generosity of hundreds of library supporters in 2023. Your contributions enable us to continue supporting innovative and inspiring programs throughout the Library District and ensure equitable access to information and resources for all.

## **\$1,000,000+**

The Estate of John  
& Betty Parks

## **\$50,000 – \$125,000**

Bill & Melinda  
Gates Foundation  
Friends of the  
Marysville Library  
Friends of the  
Stanwood Library  
Humanities Washington  
Nysether Family Foundation

## **\$5,000 – \$49,999**

Education First  
Limitless Network  
Camano Island Library Friends  
Gellerson Memorial Fund\*  
James Kudebeh &  
Catherine Carbone  
Passey/Marshall Fund\*  
Sno-Isle Libraries Circle of  
Friends Fund\*  
Sno-Isle Libraries  
Foundation Endowment\*  
Ulla Brita Larson  
Memorial Fund\*  
Thomas & Martha Walker

## **\$1,000 – \$4,999**

Linda Arink  
Oren & Gay Campbell  
Jane & Steven Crawford  
Jackie & Frank DeFazio  
Diane DeGraff  
De Spain Family Fund\*  
Dickinson Family Foundation  
Donna Drury  
Richard & Patricia Eger  
Rich & Mary Ann Flanders

Linda Forst-Duke  
Friends of the Freeland Library  
Whidbey Community  
Foundation

Kimberlee Gunning  
Marilyn Hollenback  
Beth Johnson  
Clyde & Sandra Johnson  
Laura Kellogg  
John Klister  
Andrew & Mary  
Katherine Koons  
Daniel LaFond

Jeff & Lois Langer Thompson  
Kevin & Kathleen Leopard  
Tom Linder & Beth Blosten  
Marysville Rotary  
Charitable Foundation  
Casey & Franny Mead  
Sandra J Moss  
Robbin D Murphy  
R. Scott Neely  
Rose & Craig Olson\*  
Karen Pasewark  
Sheila Pera  
Jan Pickard & Anne Harvey  
Janet Pruatt

Eugene Puhmann  
& Jane Morris  
Ted & Teresa Rihn  
Gail Sailer  
Karen Shoaf-Mitchell  
& Robert Mitchell  
Dale & Cherlyn Shoup  
Patricia Stainbrook  
Taney Stewart  
Michael & Alice Taylor  
Jeanne Thorsen & Tom Mayer  
Sonia Siegel Vexler\*

Joan Whittington  
Raymond Zhang  
Joyce Zhou

## **\$500 – \$999**

Barb Adams  
Elizabeth Arand  
Bayview Corner LLC  
Clara Beier  
Gary & Nancy Berner  
Cathy Brown  
The Cunliffe Family  
Charitable Fund  
Jill Daverso  
Thomas Delanty  
Ella Doo & Art Castagno  
Kim Drury & Tom Fox  
Ellingson Jubilee Fund  
Laura Ellis  
Robert Faley  
Geraldine Faley  
James Gage  
& Kathy Obersinner  
Ann Hamburg  
Bob Hamlin  
The Hand in Hand  
Partners Fund  
Coco Huang  
Katherine Janeway  
Lucie Johns  
Patrick Johnson  
Keelysandra Jorgensen  
Daniel & Tressa Kentner  
Mary & Barry Key  
Christina Kourteva  
Melissa Lafranchise  
League of Women Voters  
Marilea Lee  
Ace Martin

Sheri McKnight  
Kenneth Merideth  
Nancy Millione  
Molina Healthcare of  
Washington  
Leslie Moore  
Margaret Moore  
Campbell Nelson  
Mark & Vickie Nysether  
Jason O'Neill & Thu Nguyen  
John & Ingrid Osterhaug  
Sherrie Pastron  
The Phillips Family Fund  
Leigh & Laverne Power  
Florence Quarterman  
The Estate of Patricia Reeve  
Riedl Foundation  
Lynn Rowley  
SaviBank  
Jennifer Schwegler  
Ian & Annie Service  
Katherine Smargiassi  
Mary Stansbury  
Christine Stansfield  
Barbara Steller  
Phil & Candy Trautman  
Kyle Wagoner  
Shel Weinberg  
Loran Weldon Wright  
Whidbey Island Bank  
William Whittemore  
Joan & Bob Whittington  
Janet Wodjenski  
Lorraine K. Wong  
Jonalyn Woolf-Ivory

*\*through the Community  
Foundation of Snohomish County*

# Creating a Legacy for Your Community

Legacy donors understand the extraordinary value of libraries and their benefit to our community. When you include the Sno-Isle Libraries Foundation in your estate plans, you create a legacy for the next generations of readers and ensure public libraries continue to thrive and serve as cornerstones of democracy.

Donors who include the Foundation in their estate plans are automatically enrolled in Sno-Isle Libraries Legacy Giving Circle, receive invitations to special events throughout the year, and are recognized in our publications. Planned gifts come in many forms without affecting the donor's current financial resources, including bequests, beneficiary designations, retirement plans, life insurance plans, endowment gifts, charitable gift annuities, and charitable remainder trusts.



Scan the code, contact us at [Foundation@Sno-Isle.org](mailto:Foundation@Sno-Isle.org), or call **360-651-7074** to learn more about including the Foundation in your estate plans and discuss your planned giving options.



## Shaping the Future of the Snohomish Library

In 2023, the Foundation received a transformational \$1.8 million bequest from the estate of philanthropists John & Betty Parks to benefit future capital upgrades of the Snohomish Library. Possible upgrades may include improvements to the building, modernizing the early learning area, and enhancing the library's outdoor spaces.



John & Betty Parks were longtime Snohomish residents and library patrons who cared deeply about their community. During their lifetime, they chose to set up a trust to ensure their wishes were fulfilled after their passing. Their forward-thinking gift will have a profound impact on the Snohomish community for generations to come.



## Staying Connected

Sign up for the Giving Connector quarterly e-newsletter to stay up to date on Foundation news.  
**Scan the code or visit [Sno-IsleFoundation.org](https://Sno-IsleFoundation.org) to stay in touch.**

## Foundation Board of Directors

**Jeanne Thorsen**, President  
**Heather Croteau**, Vice President  
**Sami Postma**, Secretary  
**Naomi Johnson**, Treasurer  
**Luke Distelhorst**, Immediate Past President  
**Rim Benoud-Schmitz**  
**Curtis DeClue**  
**Nick Hamden**  
**Eleanor Howell-Shryock**  
**Nicolas Kadir Jensen**  
**Frank Kwan**  
**Colin McMahon**  
**Brianne Nevill**  
**Sonia Siegel Vexler**  
**Ryan Willis**  
**Joyce Zhou**  
**Susan Kostick**, Board of Trustees Liaison

## Foundation & Library Staff

**Christina Kourteva**  
 Foundation Executive Director  
**Laura Hartner**  
 Foundation Specialist  
**Rebecca Loney**  
 Sno-Isle Libraries Director of Planning and Fund Development  
**Lois Langer Thompson**  
 Sno-Isle Libraries Executive Director



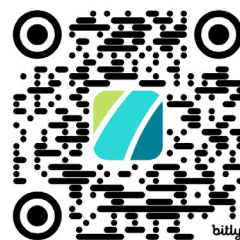
# Thank you

for keeping  
**Sno-Isle Libraries**  
strong with your  
generous support!



## Stay in touch!

Scan the code or visit [Sno-Islefoundation.org](https://Sno-Islefoundation.org) to sign up for the Foundation's quarterly e-newsletter.



### CONTACT US

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☎ 360-651-7074



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