



ANNOUNCEMENT

We are excited to announce that Friends of the Oakland Public School Libraries, or FOPSL, will become a program of the Oakland Literacy Coalition (OLC) in January 2022. OLC will carry forward FOPSL's mission to ensure that every Oakland public school student has access to a quality school library services.

Founded in 2012, FOPSL has supported OUSD's libraries, advocated for expanded library services, and most recently partnered with OUSD to build the OUSD Digital Library, or Sora. Since our inception, we have provided over \$200,000 in funding to support OUSD libraries, thousands of books, over 25,000 skilled volunteer hours, and rebuilt 24 libraries,

After four wonderful and fulfilling years working with FOPSL, most recently as its Executive Director, I have decided to retire in December to coincide with my husband's retirement. After evaluating different potential paths forward, the FOPSL Board met with the Oakland Literacy Coalition and agreed that becoming a program of the [Oakland Literacy Coalition](#) (OLC) will not only continue FOPSL's work but will grow its programs and impact.

FOPSL and OLC have worked together since our founding, and OLC's mission, "Working together to ensure Oakland's children learn and love to read," complements our mission. Since its inception in 2008, OLC has built broad support in Oakland, including city and school district leadership, community organizations, OUSD families, and major literacy-focused foundations, including Stephen and Ayesha Curry's Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation. OLC has partnered closely with the district, most recently on the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan and Elementary English Language Curriculum Adoption. OLC's Board has made a strategic commitment to expand its focus to include secondary literacy, so it is prepared to support library services from TK-12. OLC will hire a Program Manager who will focus solely on carrying forward FOPSL's programs to support and advocate for the expansion of quality library services. I will stay on throughout 2022, chairing OLC's new School Library Advisory Committee, to ensure program continuity and support the new School Library Program Manager.

The FOPSL Board and I are confident that the OLC is best positioned to continue FOPSL's work and to ensure school libraries remain an integral part of the literacy conversation in OUSD schools. We are gratified that the Oakland Literacy Coalition has agreed to carry on this important work.

Best,



Dagmar Serota
Executive Director