

TINY FREE LIBRARY



*Helping communities better understand
the intersection of early literacy and
homelessness through free book
exchanges.*



TINY FREE LIBRARY WITH A PURPOSE

Overview

Tiny Free Libraries are small book exchange structures that promote literacy, increase access to books and foster a greater sense of community. Part of a national movement launched in 2009, these hyper-local structures are free and open to the public and contain a small collection of rotating titles. Community members are encouraged to donate their old books, and to take one for themselves – and then repeat the exchange process so that all of the residents' books are shared.

Colorado Reads Initiative

Colorado Reads: The Early Literacy Initiative is the state's plan to help ensure every child in Colorado learns to read. Under the leadership of the Office of Lt. Governor Garcia, the Tiny Free Library project is part of the statewide effort to draw public attention to the critical importance of early learning. More information about the Lt. Governor's initiatives can be found at www.colorado.gov/ltgovernor.



BUILDING TINY FREE LIBRARIES

Tiny Free Libraries can be made out of any type of durable material and can be any size. Builders can use their imagination and creativity! The standard library is roughly 20” wide by 15” deep by 18” high on a sturdy post or secure foundation.

Blueprints are included and may also be obtained via www.littlefreelibrary.org/for inspiration, but builders are encouraged to use their imagination and make these tiny libraries look as unique as they wish.



WHERE WILL THE TINY LIBRARIES BE PLACED?

Tiny Free Libraries will be placed throughout homeless shelters and community centers across the state. Our goal is to bring together community partners to highlight the intersection of early literacy and homelessness.

Organizations hosting a Tiny Free Library will be paired with a local community partner who will build the structure. Our community builders will maintain the Tiny Free Library and ensure a rotating collection of books is available. If the host organization wishes to take a more involved role, we welcome and encourage them to do so.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

How Do We Become A Host?

If you would like to host a Tiny Free Library on or near your site, please contact Lt. Governor Garcia's office at 303-866-2077. We will pair you with a local community partner to build your structure and install your structure.

How Can Our Organization Build a Tiny Free Library?

If you would like to build a Tiny Free Library please contact Lt. Governor Garcia's office at 303-866-2077. We will than pair you with an organization in need of a structure.



HELPFUL TIPS

- ✓ When you put up your library, your inclination will be to fill it to the brim, bursting with the books you've loved and want to share. The best thing to do however is to leave room in your library at all times, whether it's for returning books or your neighbors' new-to-you ones. In fact it's a good idea to take some books out temporarily so it's not too cluttered. Make sure your library has a good variety of books, but also that it has space to take on more.
- ✓ You'll start to see repeat customers to your library, the people who walk by every couple of days to see what's new. If they see the same stuff in there, day in and day out, it gets boring. Make sure your library has good turnover. If you switch books out regularly, not only will more books be read, but people will use your library more often because they know there's always something new to find.
- ✓ Try to place recognizable books, with bright, bold colors in your library. People tend to gravitate towards these the most. Avoid putting books that are in bad shape, torn, or falling apart. You want to have good quality books in your library, even if you don't have a lot.

HELPFUL TIPS CONTINUED

- ✓ You want to encourage books to come back. To do so you may want to add a sign that says enjoy a book, and come back for another when done. You will be surprised that people will return books, even if it takes them a while to read one, they usually see their way back!

RESOURCES

- ✓ To learn more about the Little Library Movement visit <http://vimeo.com/71254919>
- ✓ You can see additional resources, building tips, as well as obtain additional blueprints for making your own tiny library by visiting www.littlefreelibrary.org
- ✓ Tiny Libraries in Colorado -The Denver Post
http://www.denverpost.com/ci_23135032/tiny-libraries-front-yards-across-colorado-inspire-love
- ✓ Check out Little Free Libraries all across Colorado Springs region -The Gazette
<http://blogs.gazette.com/sidestreets/2014/03/05/check-out-little-free-libraries-all-across-colorado-springs-region/>
- ✓ Little Free Library binds books and neighbors-9 News
<http://archive.9news.com/news/article/321960/188/Little-Free-Library-binds-books-and-neighbors>

✓