



Your Binc Foundation 2024 Gratitude Report

With Gratitude,
Pam French, CEO



Board of Directors



2024 Board of Directors Pictured from L to R: Andy Perham, Chricsynthia Floyd, Jonathan Putnam, Annie Philbrick, Michael Jacobs, Eileen Dengler, Calvin Crosby, Emma Kaas (née Nichols), and Chris Morrow
Not Pictured: Steven Malk, Kuo-Yu Liang, Rockelle Henderson, and Erin Coffey

BincTank | 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Binc welcomed the first cohort of entrepreneurs into BincTank, the only business incubator for bookstore ownership in the country. The 12 aspiring and new store owners from California to Florida immersed themselves into Professional Bookselling School,



Members of the first cohort of BincTank: Standing left to right: Angie Nixon, Kenya Kirkman, Rob Eckman, Ashley Mireles-Guerrero, Courtney Bledsoe, Kevin Zambrano, Diana Dominguez, Aysia Brown, Gwendolyn Henderson, Jay Williams.
Kneeling: Alma Guzman and Ciona Rouse

attended weekly sessions to extend their learning, and worked closely with mentors and subject matter experts to realize their goals. When they graduated from the pilot program, 12 communities had, or were on the path to having, their bookstore.



Dear Friends,

As I look back on 2024 the word that continues to come to mind is change. Here at Binc we saw good change for several communities around the country that now have their bookstore thanks to BincTank entrepreneurs in the first cohort of our pilot program. We also saw—and continue to see—change from climate-related disasters.

In 2024 Binc provided three times as much climate-related disaster assistance to individuals and stores than in 2023. The last months of the year brought widespread flooding and devastation when hurricanes Helene and Milton hit the southeast states, and then just days into the new year the California wildfires closed dozens of book and comic stores and several booksellers lost their homes.

As our communities move through all the change in the world, your support and advocacy ensured that through it all book and comic people across the country continue to have a safety net in Binc. You make it possible for the store doors to stay open. Thank you; we could not do what we do without you.

Thank You, Donors

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A New Ambassdor: Amor Towles

Ann Patchett, the inaugural ambassador for the Binc Foundation and best-selling author, passed the ambassador baton to fellow author Amor Towles. Towles is the best-selling author of *Rules of Civility*, *A Gentleman in Moscow*, *The Lincoln Highway*, and most recently *Table for Two*, a collection of short stories and a novella. “When Ann Patchett asked me to takeover for her as Binc Ambassador, I didn’t hesitate,” said Towles. “Booksellers are unsung heroes of American cultural life and Binc provides them with a unique source of support when they need it the most.”



Photo by Dmitri Kasterine

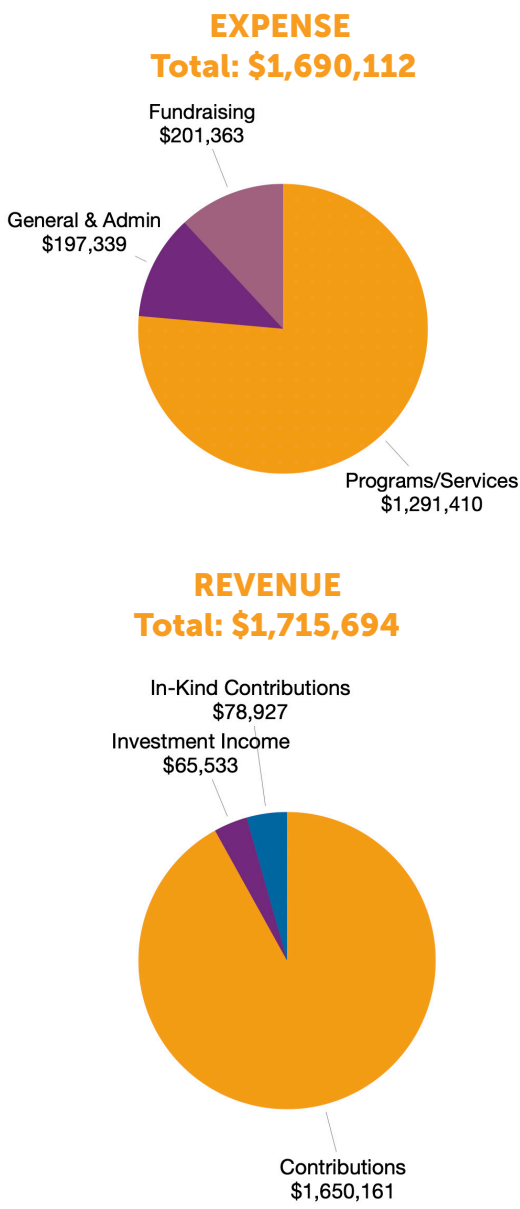
Binc Partnered with Authors

Thirty authors and creators from across genres rallied behind the leadership of best-selling authors Amor Towles and Ann Patchett to show their commitment to bookstores and comic shops across the country. Their support launched the successful I Stand with Book and Comic Stores campaign and raised more than \$165,000.

David Baldacci, Leigh Bardugo, Erica Bauermiester, Judy Blume, Chris Bohjalian, Sandra Boynton, Suzanne Collins, Michael Connelly, Kate DiCamillo, Anthony Doerr, Chris Finan, John Grisham, Lauren Groff, Jenny Han, Taylor Jenkins Reid, Jeff Kinney, Wally Lamb, Min Jin Lee, Zibby Owens, Ann Patchett, James Patterson, Jodi Picoult, Dav Pilkey, Sherri Duskey Rinker, Rebecca Stead, Garth Stein, Tui Sutherland, Amor Towles, and Mo and Cher Willems.

A New Scholarship

Five booksellers in stores from San Francisco to Boston received a \$10,000 scholarship to provide the aspiring writer-booksellers with the financial support to focus on a full-length manuscript. The Susan Kamil Scholarship for Emerging Writers was established by Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and bestselling author Charles Duhigg and his wife, Liz Alter. Kamil was executive vice president and publisher of Random House when she died in 2019, known for recognizing new literary voices and introducing them to the public.



373

individuals, families and stores helped (including mental health)

\$1,291,410

total amount of financial assistance and mental health grants awarded

42

professional development scholarships

135

referrals for mental health therapy

“

I was in a car accident which resulted in severe neck and back injuries. My car was totaled and I was forced to take time off from work. A coworker suggested I reach out to Binc. I felt heard and seen and was provided with emotional and financial support within days.”

We had a tornado go through our town and we were very lucky that all of us were safe. However, our book store sustained damage that was not covered by insurance. Binc was able to help us manage our cash flow and helped us get back on our feet ASAP.”

My wife was laid off and rent was getting really tight. I was panicking about keeping a roof over ours and our 7-year-old’s head. I reached out to Binc and within 24 hrs we had a plan in place and help was on the way.”

Get Involved

Become a Monthly Sustaining Donor: Your recurring donation will ensure that booksellers in need have a place to turn for help.

Leave a Legacy: Your will affirms, honors, and protects what matters most in your life. Planned giving is a way for you to make a financial gift to Binc as part of your overall financial and/or estate planning.

Join the Author + Creator Leadership Circle: Led by Campaign Chair Garth Stein, the Leadership Circle celebrates the writers and creators in our community who support booksellers and comic shop employees through Binc.

Join a Committee: From programs and finance, to development and communication, our volunteer committee members are assets to the foundation.

Host a Fundraiser or Initiative: These fundraisers are powerful shows of your support while amplifying Binc’s mission to others. There are many ways to show your creative support of Binc whether it’s a birthday drive, t-shirt sale, auction, book, or productive giveback—contact us with your idea.

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