



City of Salinas

Library & Community Services • 350 Lincoln Avenue • Salinas, California 93901 • (831) 758- 7311

February 22, 2019

Kerry Varney, Chief Administrative Officer
Tanimura Family Foundation
P.O. Box 4070
Salinas, CA 93912-4070

Dear Kerry and members of the Tanimura Family Foundation:

We appreciate this opportunity to request a gift from the Tanimura Family Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 to assist us in equipping the new El Gabilan Library in Salinas with a Community Room Deck, and to help us purchase technology and collection materials for the new shelves.

Last September, the City of Salinas broke ground on a new El Gabilan Branch Library, the result of 2 years of needs assessment and visioning work with the community as well as extensive planning and budgeting on the part of city staff, our architect, and financial stakeholders. The City will be investing \$21 million in this facility that meets many of the needs expressed by the community; yet, because of rising construction costs, several key design components cannot be accomplished and will not be part of the new facility unless funded through other sources.

One of these components is the construction of an outdoor deck area off the community room that can be used to extend the function and capacity of the community room. It is expected that this meeting space, with a capacity of over 150 people will be heavily used, both for library programs, as well as for community events and meetings. With an entrance that will be accessible outside the hours that the library is open, this meeting space could be host to many community events that might lend themselves to indoor/outdoor uses and will be enhanced by the addition of this deck area.

The addition of an outdoor deck area is important for many reasons. The 21,000 square foot two-story library is being built on a relatively small lot and every square foot has to have a purpose. The Community Room Deck is an important piece in the overall puzzle, providing an area for community events and programming. It will be a place for the community to come together, find respite or continue to learn in a breakout session form a workshop or lecture. The deck can also function as a programming space for families, teens, adults, seniors and children. The entire area outside the community room, which will be fenced in and only available from within the library, can be used for live performances, community gatherings, book clubs, knitting groups, outdoor creative arts & crafts, and much more.

Last December, we applied for and received a grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 in support of three managed options which have a total budget of \$400,000. These include a children and family outdoor educational area, a community room deck, and a general community area off the main level community room. This award is contingent upon us raising \$100,000 in matching funds. To date, we have raised \$150,000 toward the overall project costs of \$400,000, and \$25,000 toward the matching grant award.

A gift of \$75,000 from the Tanimura Family Foundation will help us secure these matching funds and build a community room deck.

You have trusted us in the past by supporting our homework center at the Cesar Chavez Library, and because of your early support of the library's after-school academic programs, the library serves more than 100 elementary school children a day in multiple locations. The new library promises to fill similar needs in North Salinas, which is also an area of high need and rapid population growth. There are 17 public schools in North Salinas, and 61,030 residents living in the 93906 zip code. In the nearby El Gabilan Elementary school, only 10% of students score "proficient" in math (the State average is 38%), and less than 25% score "proficient" in English Language Arts, which is lower than the State average of 49%. Unfortunately, these test results are indicative of test scores of nearby schools, and the larger need in the community.

Libraries today are much more than a collection of books. While books are still important, we also provide a place for adults and families to advance their careers, learn new skills, and further their education. Libraries are often the first exposure to literacy instruction and development for early learners and young families. Libraries are the primary place where school students can enrich their learning opportunities in the out of school hours. We know this is critically important in Salinas because youth and the community as a whole still struggles with gang violence and educational attainment. Libraries also build community, and connect adults to services across the City, County, state and federal government as well as to nonprofits, including First 5 of Monterey County, Monterey County Health Department and others.

Help us realize the vision for the new El Gabilan Library that the community has imagined. When the new library opens in January of 2020, we want the community to be in awe of the new space and inspired.

An additional gift of \$25,000 would help us purchase state-of-the-art computers for the media rooms, and high-quality books for our shelves.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and welcome an opportunity to meet with you in person so we can share with you the plans for the new library and our passion for this project.

Sincerely,



Kristan Lundquist

Interim Library & Community Services Director