

Grant Request

Program Name

Making Learning Come Alive: Outdoor Spaces that Educate

Requested Amount

\$25,000

Request Type

Capital (Outdoor Learning Spaces for the new El Gabilan Library)

Program Area

Community Development

Request Summary

In September, 2018, the City of Salinas will break 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 innovative outdoor learning space that will encourage informal exploration, and provide multisensory learning environments for children to explore and for families to spend time together. With early support from CFMC, this project will move forward, and it will significantly increase the odds of achieving its full vision of fostering curiosity and learning for the children of Salinas.

Photo of Program

Please add the landscape plan

Photo Release

We have obtained releases from the individuals (or the guardian if under 18) pictured and have them on file.

Choices

Yes

No

Description and Total Number Served*

Salinas, with a population of 157,000, is a young community with approximately 30.8% of its residents 17 or younger, and 50% just 29 or younger. The El Gabilan Library is located in the 93906 zip code, which has 61,030 residents. The Library generally defines the users served by a library to be those living in a 2 mile radius of the facility; 44,013 residents live within this distance. The area is characterized by high unemployment (9.4%), low home ownership (47% are renters), and a low median income of \$54,949. There are 17 public schools, and 3600 school age children in the Santa Rita USD, and 9000 in nearby Salinas City ESD. The primary ethnicity is 90% or greater Hispanic. At 3,500 square feet, the old El Gabilan Library has not been able to accommodate the needs of the residents, and many children and families have gone unserved. The low number of library card holders (only 7,198) underscores the current facility's inability to serve the needs of this population.

Community Need*

Planning for the new library included a thorough needs assessment and visioning process with enthusiastic involvement by the community through a survey and several community forums. Some of the needs expressed in this process were for: 1) safe access to safe places; 2) programs and services for K-12 students; 3) early childhood parenting programs; 3) interactive opportunities to learn by doing; 4) outdoor community spaces.

The new library intends to meet the needs of the community by:

- Providing needed community infrastructure for North Salinas;
- Providing safe and enriching spaces and activities for students afterschool and in the summer;
- Nurturing creativity and innovation and foster workforce readiness for all ages through makerspaces and a digital classroom;
- Giving senior citizens opportunities to gather and connect in a safe space;
- Providing multiple options for community meeting spaces for small, medium and large groups;
- Being an important resource for early literacy and kindergarten readiness;

While many people view East Salinas as the place of highest need, our public safety personnel and school administration are seeing North Salinas as an area where need is quickly growing. Test scores for the Library's nearest elementary school, El Gabilan Elementary, represent some of the lowest in California and sadly, are representative of other nearby schools in Salinas. Only 10% of students there scored "proficient" in math. The state average is 38%. Less than 25% scored "proficient" in English Language Arts, significantly lower than the state average of 49%.

When it comes to student success, parents also matter. The library is unique in that it can address the needs of the entire family, including the educational and career needs of adults. The new library will support programs to help adults learn English, prepare for the GED, gain valuable job skills, including basic and advanced computer skills, and provide coaching for healthier parenting through its story time, playgroup and family literacy programs. A clear goal identified in survey after survey of Salinas residents is the hope for safer communities; the Library is providing the

safe space sought after by the community, while also fostering healthy social bonds that extend well beyond the walls of the Library.

The area surrounding El Gabilan Library is also characterized by high-density housing, with many families residing in apartments where children have limited access to play outdoors or in nature. The outdoor learning environments that this project envisions will provide more hands-on learning, and more contact with the natural world, both of which are essential for healthy brain and cognitive development.

3000 character limitation

Detailed Program Description and Proposed Activities*

The modern architectural design of the new two-story building will feature a curved glass exterior and patio entrance, as well as dedicated adult and children rooms, a homework center, digital studio, a tech makerspace, an Internet café, and community room. The outdoor educational space will allow us to offer outdoor programming that supports school readiness and early acquisition of math and language skills. Targeted especially for young children ages birth to 7, the learning environments will provide a variety of ‘fresh-air’ and kinetic experiences that enhance literacy, and introduce math concepts through movement and music. For many children, this will be a brand new experience.

The related library programing will be research-based and innovative, leveraging the new research on “school readiness” and new understandings of the foundations of literacy. This research indicates that math preparedness is actually a better indicator of early language and literacy acquisition, and student success than previously thought. Several librarians have already received professional training from the Center for Childhood Creativity to enhance our existing library programming for youth. That research provided the impetus for a project between the California State Library and the Center for Childhood Creativity that resulted in a series of toolkits for public libraries. The Salinas Public Library intends to build on that collaborative effort as it develops its outdoor learning environment at the new El Gabilan Library. It will also be one of the first public libraries to integrate the new toolkits into its design.

Proposed Activities

The outdoor educational space (which will encompass over 7500 square feet) will allow us to offer outdoor programming that supports school readiness and early acquisition of math and language skills. Targeted especially for young children ages birth to 7, the learning environments will provide a variety of ‘fresh-air’ and kinetic experiences that enhance literacy, and introduce math concepts through movement and music. For many children, this will be a brand new experience.

Program activities will also include school visits from kinder and 1st grade classrooms, as well as local preschools, and day care centers. We will also offer story time and other outdoor library programming for school-aged children that utilizes the space and learning stations. The design will also foster parent/child interactions as families wander through the Library and are enticed into the outdoor learning environment.

Schedule of Implementation

August – September 2018	Demolition of existing building and construction start for new library
October – February 2019	Final development and selection of furniture, fixtures and equipment (FF&E), both for indoor and outdoor spaces. Final decisions for managed options must be made during this period if they are to be included in the project.
March – May 2019	Design phase working with consultants on interactive learning centers and art installations
May – August 2019	Site preparation and material procurement
October – December 2019	Installation and landscaping

4000 character limitation

Previous Community Impact Grant

The Salinas Public Library has not received a Community Impact grant in the previous year.

Evaluation Plan

Expected Program Outcomes*

State the overall broad changes you expect this work to have on your clients and the community you intend to serve.

1. Children in North Salinas will have access to high quality learning environments within the library, and in the outdoor spaces, that will increase their school readiness and

literacy skills, and better prepare them for kindergarten. Families with children under 7 will make more frequent library visits and participate actively in library programming.

2. More North Salinas families will have library cards and utilize all of the library resources, including online tools and homework help, language learning tools, technology training, literacy programs, and more children ages 0 – 7 will have library cards.
3. Families and adults will see the El Gabilan Library as a destination for print and digital literacy, for entertainment (live outdoor performances, story time, workshops, etc.), education (computer literacy, citizenship classes, high school equivalency, language learning, etc.) and outdoor exploration (learning spaces, enjoyment of nature, etc.).

Expected Measurable Results

- 1) The number of active library card holders in North Salinas will increase by at least 100% (from 7,000 to at least 14,000) within a year of the new library opening its doors.
- 2) 80% of families will report high satisfaction with the outdoor educational learning spaces, as measured in participant surveys.
- 3) Program attendance for preschool and elementary age students at the El Gabilan Library will total at least 16,500 for the first year after opening.
- 4) Library visitation will average 500 visitors per day.

Data Collection

1. Number of library cards issued in Zip Code 93906.
2. Parent surveys.
3. Program attendance
4. Library visitation

Organization Information

Year Established

1909

Organization's Mission Statement

The Library's mission statement is currently under revision as the Library is crafting a new strategic plan. During the visioning process for the new El Gabilan Library, forum attendees participated in the development of a mission statement for the new library that has been embraced by both staff and the community:

"The El Gabilan Branch Library will be a safe, accessible and inclusive community place for all ages. It will promote curiosity and provide limitless possibilities with an innovative approach to life-long learning."

Description of Organization

The Salinas Public Library has proudly served the community since 1909 when it first opened its doors as a Carnegie Public Library. Today, there are three libraries in the system open to the public 7-days a week: John Steinbeck Library, Cesar Chavez Library, and El Gabilan Library. On a daily basis, over 1200 residents visit a Salinas Public Library. The collection includes more than 200,000 books, magazines, movies, audiobooks, and e-books, as well as a separate Steinbeck Collection of more than a thousand books, articles, and historical items. Each month more than 2,000 residents attend the wide variety of programming offered in all three locations, including story times and playgroups for preschool children, homework help, art and science programs for young students, STEM workshops for teens, ESL, GED, workforce development and citizenship programs for adults, as well as book groups and reader's advisory services for all ages.

On November 8, 2005, Salinas' voters approved Measure V, a ½ cent transactions and use tax for general services. The tax (\$10 million) was not sufficient to restore all services previously eliminated (\$15 million), therefore, a deliberative, collaborative, and community oriented process was undertaken to make decisions on services to be funded with Measure V. Today, the Measure's sunset has disappeared with the adoption of a new Measure E. The Library relies on Measure E, private donations and grants to operate its facilities.

Number of paid full-time employees

33

Number of paid part-time employees

5

Number of active volunteers

170

What percent of the board made a financial contribution to the organization in the last year?

N/A

What was the total amount donated by the board in the last year?*

N/A

Board of Directors

Joe Gunter, Mayor

Scott Davis, Councilmember, District 1

Tony Barrera, Councilmember, District 2

Steve McShane, Councilmember, District 3

Gloria De La Rosa, Councilmember, District 4

Kimbley Craig, Councilmember, District 5

John "Tony" Villegas, Councilmember, District 6

Ten Largest Financial Gifts*

List the ten largest financial gifts (grants or donations from individuals or organizations including name of donor/organization and amount of gift) that the organization received in the most recent fiscal year. Donors who have requested anonymity may be listed as Anonymous.

\$80,806	California State Library Literacy Services (adult literacy)
\$68,039	First Five of Monterey County (Playgroups)
\$61,000	Salinas Youth Initiative - Packard Foundation (Homework Centers)
\$35,000	Claire Giannini Fund (Kindermobile, Student Success Initiative)
\$29,930	Southern California Libraries Cooperative (SCLC) Libraries Illuminated (Youth & Technology)
\$15,000	Youth & Coding, PLP Innovation Grant (Youth & Technology)
\$10,000	California Immigrant Alliance Project (CA State Library)
\$6,000	Friends of the Salinas Public Library (Support of Summer Reading program)
\$5,000	Nancy Buck Ransom (Kinder Boot Camp)
\$3,500	Arts Council of Monterey County (Salinas Valley Comic Con)

Financial Information**Date of Fiscal Year End***

June 30, 2019

Organizational Budget (current year)*

5,113,563

What was the actual amount of total expenses in the most recently completed fiscal year?*

5,244,233

Program Budget**Consultant's Proposal or Vendor Cost Estimates***

If funds in this request would be used for a consultant, upload a copy of the consultant's proposal, outlining the expected costs and services for this project. If purchasing equipment valued over \$100.00, upload a vendor's quote, product price sheet or a scope of work.

*File Size Limit: 2 MB***Organization Budget***

Done

Balance Sheet or Statement of Financial Position (for most recently completed year)*

N/A

Profit & Loss Statement or Statement of Activities (for most recently completed year)*

N/A

Fiscally-sponsored Organizations Only

Community Foundation accepts applications from unincorporated groups when a 501(c)3 nonprofit fiscal sponsor serves as the legal and financial manager. Fiscal sponsors agree to be responsible for managing grant funds.

Complete this section ONLY if this application is being submitted by an unincorporated group working with fiscal sponsor.

Provide a brief summary of the sponsored group's mission/purpose.

N/A

What is the legal name of the nonprofit fiscal sponsor?

N/A

Fiscal Sponsor's Tax Exemption

N/A

What is the current annual budget of the sponsored group?

N/A

Organizational Budget (of the sponsored group)

N/A

Leadership (of the sponsored group)

N/A

Upload a copy of the memorandum of agreement between the fiscal sponsor and the sponsored group.

N/A

Collaborative Proposals Only

Collaboration Description

N/A

Upload a copy of the memorandum of agreement among all the partners in this collaborative request.

N/A

Organization Agreement

N/A

Name of Authorized Board Member*

N/A

Name of Executive Director or Other Authorized Representative*

N/A

Title*

Character Limit: 50

Use this space for any optional comments or explanations regarding this grant application.

For Organizational Development requests ONLY: If funds in this request would be used for a consultant, upload a copy of the consultant's proposal, outlining the expected costs and services for this project. If purchasing equipment valued over \$100.00, upload a vendor's quote, product price sheet or a scope of work.

Character Limit: 2000 | File Size Limit: 2 MB