

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Library/Organization	Mendocino County Library
Project Title	Mendocino County Reads: <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i> by Robin Wall Kimmerer

## ITEMS 1-30. COMPLETED ON THE ONLINE APPLICATION SYSTEM SUBMITTABLE

### ITEM 31. AGENCY INFORMATION: Please describe how this project aligns with your agency's mission, values, strategic plan, goals, and/or other activities. (Word Count Limit: 150)

The mission of the Mendocino County Library is to enrich lives through free and equitable access to materials and programs centered on education, culture, and entertainment. This project focuses on land stewardship and science through themes within the book as well as a community connection with the Mendocino Land Trust. Education and culture will be emphasized through a community connection with local Pomo tribes. All five library branches will participate with programming and book discussions, and equitable access will be achieved through the county's Bookmobile which will hand out *Braiding Sweetgrass* and age-appropriate read-alikes for preschool, school-age children, and teens.

### ITEM 32. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Provide a description that would enable the reader to comprehend the proposed project if they were to read only this response and no other portion of the application. Discuss what you will do, how you will do it, what you aim to achieve, why, and for whom. Organize your text in a readable format. Use subheadings as needed. Your project description should relate to activities in the timeline and items in the budget. See Appendix F for an example. (Word count limit: 300)

*Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer continues to be a sought-after book in our community. It currently has over 70 hold requests within the small, rural library system, and that number stays consistent. The book, beautifully written and segmented out in well-paced, readable chapters, explores topics the whole community will find engaging. The book speaks to the different members of the community.

#### **Community Groups**

The Pomo tribes in Mendocino County can identify with the explorations of Indigenous wisdom and traditional use of plants.

Ecologists identify with the theme of conservation.

Scientists can read about a peer and how she interacts with plants where she lives and across North America.

The foraging community will also recognize aspects of their group, celebrating the beauty of being sustained by the land.

#### **Community Connections**

Children, teens, and adults get to experience hands-on botany lessons through the hikes and nature programs being offered by the Mendocino Land Trust.

Many in the community will be introduced to the people who called this area home long before white settlers came to the area through community conversations, presentations, and programs done in partnership with the Pomo tribes of Mendocino County.

## Book Clubs

The Mendocino County Library is planning to offer book discussions and/or book-related programming at each of its five branches. The opportunity to read and discuss the same book county-wide will aid in strengthening existing connections as well as creating new ones.

**ITEM 33. BRIEF ABSTRACT:** Limiting your response to two (2) sentences, please provide a brief statement which answers the questions: we will do what, for whom, for what expected benefit(s). This statement may be used for publicity purposes. See Appendix F for an example. **(Word count limit: 60)**

Mendocino County Reads will focus on the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, bringing the county together through discussion, community conversation, book clubs, and related programming. Community connections will be built through library partnerships with local Pomo tribes and the Mendocino Land Trust.

**ITEM 34. IMPACT TO DATE:** If this project has been supported with LSTA funds in the past, describe the project's results and impact to date. If this is a new project, enter "N/A." **(Word count limit: 300)**

N/A

## ITEM 35. COMMUNITY NEEDS, ASPIRATIONS AND ASSETS

**Describe the community need(s) that this project is intended to meet, the community aspiration(s) with which it is intended to align, and the community assets that connect to the project. Also, briefly describe how your project will respond to your stated community needs and/or aspirations. (Word count limit: 300)**

"Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants" is the subtitle for *Braiding Sweetgrass*. That was the perfect launch point for approaching the local Pomo tribes to partner with the library for programming and to introduce the greater community to the people whose traditional homeland is where we all now dwell. This also gives the Pomo peoples a platform to discuss their experiences of living in the area, what their communities may need, and ways the greater community can support those needs.

By involving the Mendocino Land Trust, the community also gets the opportunity to learn about the local botany of Mendocino County and the ways to help conserve the fragile ecosystems of coastline, redwoods, sheltered valleys, mountains, farmland, and waterways within the county as well as learning how native plants can help with wildfire suppression. The environment of Mendocino County is diverse. Our rural communities are far apart, but by offering outdoor programming where people from different areas can get together to learn about the place they all call home, those far flung rural towns and Rancherias can experience all the things that they have in common as well as celebrating and discussing how they may be different.

The community aspirations will be addressed through the project by giving our Community Connections partners platforms to connect with the rest of the Mendocino County population. It will also build connections through the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book county-wide through book clubs and public shared spaces.

### ITEM 36. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Describe how you have involved your community, and members of your targeted population, in program planning and how you plan to involve them in implementing the proposed project. (Word count limit: 200)**

The Mendocino County Library has involved community partners, teachers, school librarians, tribal leaders, and the Mendocino Land Trust in working on ways to incorporate *Braiding Sweetgrass* into local lessons and programs. Through the book's exploration of indigenous traditions and native plants, our Community Connection partners have creative flexibility on the presentations they will host. The library is a great platform for these action items, a hub where the far flung areas of our county come together. Our community partners recognize that and are excited to use that access and good will to further their own educational goals. All parties also recognize that by building these connections now, it will be easier to include more programs in the future which include community involvement.

### ITEM 37. EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING

**Explain how the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging have guided your project planning and how they will guide its implementation and evaluation. (Word count limit: 200).** See instructions for more detail and definitions.

These events will be taking place on the territorial traditional land of Pomo people. The residents of Mendocino County are gathered on the occupied territory of Pomo people, who have stewarded the land for generations.

The goal of choosing a book like *Braiding Sweetgrass* as a Mendocino County Reads selection is to help to foster an inclusive environment. It gives our local Pomo people a platform to discuss and share traditions and knowledge that is important to them and will hopefully allow for a greater sense of belonging within the larger community. It also gives an opportunity for the Pomo peoples to discuss their needs for equity, empowering their voices in a welcoming library space.

It is also an opportunity for the greater community to become aware of the diversity in the region. As the internet has allowed social bubbles to form, programming that includes a diversity of speakers helps to burst those bubbles and introduce local regions to how the people in their area are different as well as alike. The library is an inclusive, safe space for the public, and books like *Braiding Sweetgrass* and the programming based upon it help to reinforce that.

### ITEM 38. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Applicants are encouraged to establish project partners (formal) and/or community connections (informal). Review the following information to ensure the differences between, and requirements of, each type of partnership are understood. **Complete this section of the application if your project will include partnerships of any type.** See instructions for more information and definitions.

#### Project Partners

**List each project partner and briefly describe each project partner's role(s) and the resources they will contribute.** Attach to the application a copy of the signed agreement for each partner, indicating that partner's role in the project and the resources the partner will contribute.

#### Community Connections

**List each community connection and briefly describe how each will contribute to the project and help achieve the project's objectives.** Attach any letters of support to your application.

<b>Partner Name and Type</b>	<b>Organization Type (see instructions for valid entries)</b>	<b>Legal Type (see instructions for valid entries)</b>	<b>Role on Project</b>	<b>Resources That Partner Will Contribute (materials/funds/staff)</b>
Pomo tribes in the Mendocino County area	Cultural Heritage Organization	Tribal/Native Organization	Community Connection	Programming partnerships to introduce the wider community to the Pomo peoples, their needs, and traditions.
Mendocino Land Trust, member of Land Trust Alliance and California Council of Land Trusts	Other – Non-profit Land Trust	Non-profit	Community Connection	Programming partnerships to involve the community in the botany and land preservation of the Mendocino County area.
Ann Sanchez, Native Liason for Point Arena's k-12 schools.	School	School District	Community Connection	Children and teen programming, design contests, and storytelling opportunities.

### **ITEM 39: PROJECT INTENT**

**Please describe the objective or expected result of the project. See instructions for details including the list of project intents.**

#### **Civic Engagement**

The Mendocino County Library's 2021 Book to Action will focus on the theme of Sustainability, specifically the topics of Indigenous land stewardship practices and California wildfires, by reading *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants*. Virtual and outdoor programs will include book discussions for various age groups, nature workshops with local experts and master gardeners on California native plants, seed saving, regenerative farming, the 2017 Redwood Complex and subsequent Mendocino Complex Fire in 2018, and general fire safety. Mendocino County Library will present their community with everyday actions they can take to reduce our ecological impact and help prevent wildfires by cooperating in relationship with nature and pledging to honor sustainable practices in caring for the land and the Earth.

## ITEM 40: PLANNING AND EVALUATION

Please answer each area concisely and completely. For section A-D, limit responses to a total of four (4) pages.

**40A. Anticipated Project Outputs – Please list services to be provided and/or products to be created in this project, including the approximate number of each. See instructions for more detail.**

200 copies of *Braiding Sweetgrass* will be distributed; 15 storytimes will be held; 4 teen book discussion groups will be conducted; 4 adult book discussion groups will be held; 5 Community Conversations will be offered; and 3 training workshops will be conducted to offer hands-on opportunities for communities to learn about land stewardship.

### 40B. Evaluation Plans:

**The State Library will provide you with surveys to use to evaluate project activities and fulfill IMLS requirements. Please describe your additional plans for evaluating the impact of your project in response to your stated needs.**

Mendocino County Library will consider the circulation statistics of our seed library collection as well as the relative amount of new Yokayo Seed Project memberships, along with program attendance, and the level of community engagement with the project activities. Another goal of this project is to create community connections, and the success of the project's impact will be assessed by future collaborations with community groups, both with the library and with each other.

**40C. Sustainability. Should this project be successful, how will it be supported and sustained in the future?**

This project will be supported and sustained by building upon existing and new community partnerships like the Mendocino Land Trust, the US Army Corps of Engineers at Lake Mendocino/Coyote Valley Dam, the local Pomo tribes, and local experts involved with our seed libraries to present critical and relevant collections, services and programs centered on promoting pollination & restoration, and reducing ecological impacts of modern-day living.

**40D. Project Activities. Please select the appropriate IMLS-designated activities that will be implemented to accomplish your project and achieve your outcomes? Per IMLS, activities are actions through which the Intent (Item 28) of a project is accomplished and which account for at least 10% of the total resources committed to the project. IMLS has identified 4 types of Activities and associated Modes (methods by which the Activity is carried out). Select all that apply to your project and provide descriptions for each.**

1. ☒ **Instruction** - Involves an interaction for knowledge or skill transfer and how learning is delivered or experienced. *(Check all that apply and provide a description including whether the format will be in-person, virtual, or both)*
  - ☒ Program - Formal interaction and active user engagement (e.g., a class on computer skills).
  - ☒ Presentation - Formal interaction and passive user engagement (e.g., an author's talk),
  - ☒ Consultation - Informal interaction with an individual or group of individuals (library staff or other professional) who provide expert advice or reference services to individuals, units, or organizations.

☐ Other

Description: Instruction will be in-person and virtual, keeping some flexibility due to changing requirements with the pandemic. Native plant and ecological programming will held outside. Storytimes will be a mix of outside and virtual programs. Community Conversations are set to be outside but can move to virtual if required. Youth and adult crafts are planned as in-person but can change to a grab-and-go with virtual instruction model if required. Book clubs will be virtual. The Mendocino County Reads design contest will be a combination of in-person and virtual.

2. ☒ **Content** - Involves the acquisition, development, or transfer of information and how information is made accessible. *(Check all that apply and provide a description including whether the format will be **physical, digital, or both**)*

☐ Acquisition - Selecting, ordering, and receiving materials for library or archival collections by purchase, exchange, or gift, which may include budgeting and negotiating with outside agencies (i.e. publishers, vendors) to obtain resources. May also include procuring software or hardware for the purposes of storing and/or retrieving information or enabling the act of experiencing, manipulating, or otherwise interacting with an information resource.

☒ Creation - Design or production of an information tool or resource (e.g., digital objects, curricula, manuals). Includes digitization or the process of converting data to digital format for processing by a computer.

☐ Description - Apply standardized descriptive information and/or apply such information in a standardized format to items or groups of items in a collection for purposes of intellectual control, organization, and retrieval.

☐ Lending - Provision of a library's resources and collections through the circulation of materials (general circulation, reserves). May also refer to the physical or electronic delivery of documents from a library collection to the residence or place of business of a library user, upon request.

☐ Preservation - Effort that extends the life or use life of a living or non-living collection, the individual items or entities included in a collection, or a structure, building or site by reducing the likelihood or speed of deterioration.

☐ Other

Description: A Mendocino County Reads design based on *Braiding Sweetgrass* will be created by a local high school student, shifted to a digital format, and then turned into stickers to be used as indicators of the books that are distributed to the community.

3. ☒ **Planning & Evaluation** - Involves design, development, or assessment of operations, services, or resources and when information is collected, analyzed, and/or disseminated. *(Check all that apply and provide a description including whether the format will be **in-house or third-party**)*

☒ Retrospective - Research effort that involves historical assessments of the condition of a project, program, service, operation, resource and/or user group.

☒ Prospective - Research effort that projects or forecasts a future condition of a project, program, service, operation, resource, and/or user group.

Description: Planning includes consultations with community members and leaders including tribal leaders, teachers, city representatives, and ecologists. Evaluation will be in-house and retrospective through circulation statistics, programming statistics, and seed library memberships and statistics.

4. ☐ **Procurement – May only be used for projects with an Institutional Capacity Intent (see Item 28).** Includes acquiring or leasing facilities; purchasing equipment/supplies, hardware/software, or other materials (not content) that support general library infrastructure. *(Provide a description)*

Description:

#### ITEM 41: PROJECT TIMELINE

Using this table, please briefly describe your major project outputs and when they will occur (the grant period starts March 2022 and ends June 30, 2022). Please list them in chronological order where applicable.

Activity	Month Started	Month Ended
Meet with Point Arena High School art school teacher on teens creating a promotional design through a contest	March 2022	March 2022
Meet with local tribes to plan presentations	March 2022	March 2022
Mendocino County Reads design contest for teens begins	March 2022	April 2022
Meet with youth librarians to create crafting kits	March 2022	March 2022
Order materials and put crafting kits together	March 2022	May 2022
Meet with branch librarians for adult programming	March 2022	March 2022
Order materials and get programming kits together for adults	March 2022	May 2022
Meet with Mendocino Land Trust to finalize hiking and outdoor programming plans	March 2022	March 2022
Mendocino County Reads introduction Zoom program with presentation from local tribes occurs	March 2022	March 2022
Design contest winner stickers ordered and placed on Mendocino County Reads books	April 2022	May 2022
Adult Book Clubs	April 2022	June 2022
Mendocino Land Trust outdoor programs	April 2022	May 2022
Storytimes	April 2022	June 2022
Community Conversations with Community Connections	April 2022	June 2022

Activity	Month Started	Month Ended
Culture program with local tribes	May 2022	May 2022
Teen book discussions	May 2022	June 2022
Mendocino County Reads finale program	June 2022	June 2022

## ITEM 42: BUDGET

The budget should clearly identify the amounts requested and from what sources. See instructions for further detail.

Budget Category: Salaries/ Wages/ Benefits	LSTA	Cash Match & In-Kind	Total
Branch Librarian	0	2781	2781
Library Technician	0	785	785
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	3566	3566

**Description:** Estimated a total of 10 hours by 5 Branch Librarians, and 5 hours by 5 Library Technicians.

Budget Category: Consultant Fees	LSTA	Cash Match & In-Kind	Total
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0

**Description:**



<b>Budget Category: Travel</b>	<b>LSTA</b>	<b>Cash Match &amp; In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Description:**

<b>Budget Category: Supplies/Materials</b>	<b>LSTA</b>	<b>Cash Match &amp; In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
200 Paperback copies of Braiding Sweetgrass	4,000	0	4,000
Supplies for children's craft programming at each branch	500	0	500
Read-alike books for children and teens	500	0	500
Supplies for adult craft programming at each branch	500	0	500
Publicity materials	500	0	500
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6000</b>

**Description:** Books and materials for programs and give aways.

<b>Budget Category: Equipment (\$5,000 or more per unit)</b>	<b>LSTA</b>	<b>Cash Match &amp; In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Description:**

<b>Budget Category: Services</b>	<b>LSTA</b>	<b>Cash Match &amp; In-Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
	0	0	0

Budget Category: Services	LSTA	Cash Match & In-Kind	Total
Printing for event marketing	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Click or tap here to enter text.	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0

**Description:**

Project Total	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Cost Rate Applied 0% Indirect Cost	\$0	\$0	\$0

Check one:

☒ No Indirect      ☐ Federally negotiated indirect cost rate \*      ☐ Indirect proposed cost rate \*

\* please attach supporting documentation if required

**Description:**

Grand Total	\$6000	\$3566	\$9566
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#### ITEM 43: LSTA GRANTS RISK SELF-ASSESSMENT

See instructions.

#### ITEM 44: APPLICANT ORGANIZATION TRAVEL POLICY

See instructions.

#### ITEM 45: GRANT APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

See instructions.

#### ITEM 46: INTERNET CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

See Instructions.

#### ITEM 47: CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

LIBRARY NAME AND PROJECT TITLE	
Library/Organization	Mendocino County Library
Project Title	Mendocino County Reads: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Check the Appropriate Library Type

☒ Public Library      ☐ Academic      ☐ K-12 (School)      ☐ Multi-Type      ☐ Special/Other

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE**

I have read and support this LSTA Grant Application.

Please note: If your application is successful, project funds will not arrive until approximately 8-10 weeks after claim forms are received by the State Library. With the submission of your application you acknowledge that you are aware of this timeline and confirm that you will be able to start and continue your project, as needed, before grant funds arrive.

CONTACT INFORMATION	
Library/Organization	Mendocino County Library
Project Name	Mendocino County Reads: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
Authorized Representative Name	Deborah Fader Samson
Title	County Librarian
Email Address	faderd@mendocinocounty.org
Phone Number	707-234-2872
Authorized Representative Mailing Address (if different than applicant information)	880 N. Bush St.
City, State, Zip (9-digit)	Ukiah, CA 95482

**Authorized Representative Signature****Date**

Type name or insert digital signature above for application submitted via Submittable.

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**Authorized Representative Signature****Date**

This will be collected via DocuSign if application is approved to receive funding.