

March 26, 2025

Dear Supervisors, CEO, Darcie Antle, Library Advisory Board and County Librarian, Mellisa Hannum,

We are writing to update you on the Friends of the Fort Bragg Library Annex Project.

In 2022, we finalized our plans and submitted a grant application to the State for a library expansion building project with our planning consultant, Marie Jones. We held a public meeting in May 2023 during which we presented building plans to the library community and the plans were received with support and enthusiasm. However, in the fall of 2023 our grant application was not funded as funding awards were prioritized by each library district's median income. In 2024, we were informed that Round Two Awards were cancelled and there would be no further library funding from the State.

However, we have proceeded with the project in spite of this setback. We decided to start the building process on the Friends property as we have secured sufficient funding through private fundraising and bequests to build the new Library Annex.

The Library Annex will be built entirely by the Friends on our property at 421 North Whipple with private donations.

In December 2024, the Application for Development deposit and plans were filed with the City of Fort Bragg. The assessor's parcel number is 008-096-11.

Marie Jones consulting has guided us through the permitting phase. Her experience as City Planner helps us with permitting questions and financial plans for funding this project. She has confirmed that the Library Annex does not fall under a "public works" project requiring prevailing wage. (CA Labor Code 1720.2) For this reason, we will be able to independently complete the Library Annex with our current "expansion funds." It is premature for the Friends to enter into any lease or operating agreement with the County for the Library Annex. We plan on operating and managing the facility ourselves in the short term. All activities in the library annex will be covered by the Friends' insurance policy.

There is precedent in our own branch history for the Friends' plans for development of the Library Annex. In the 1980s, the Friends bought the current library property and converted the building to meet the library's needs. The Friends completed the building renovations and then donated the property to the County.

Eventually, we may be able to do the same with the Library Annex building. But we still need to negotiate a number of items with the County and the County will need to obtain funding and complete a parcel merger and rezone the County parcel to make a connection between the two buildings. In the meantime, the Friends will continue with the permitting and construction of the Library Annex. We will operate the Library Annex for the library's youth programs, community meetings, Friends' storage and office space needs until it is feasible to make a different arrangement.

We appreciate your consideration and support.

Janice Marcell, President, Friends of the Fort Bragg Library
Carole Poma, Library Advisory Board District 4 Representative,
Linda Thornquist-Stumpf, Library Advisory Board City of Fort Bragg Representative
Nancy Barbosa, Secretary, Friends of the Fort Bragg Library