

Project Information

Describe briefly what you propose to do, for whom, and for what expected benefit(s). *

The project will expand our often-crowded branch by 59%. The 3,456 SF addition will better serve our youth by tripling their space and provide low-income families with increased digital access and quiet rooms. It will serve disabled people with much needed ADA sidewalks, restrooms, and parking. The community will benefit from the 800 SF community/media/programs room, a 63% increase in the collection, and a 71% increase in programming space. The project will also replace a kerosene heater with an energy-efficient heat pump powered with solar panels and demonstrate sustainable storm water management with a native plant landscape.

Word Count: 97 / 100

Describe the need that this proposed project is intended to address. *

Our current branch is too small to meet the demand for services. Currently, our children's area is cramped (450 SF) and all patrons must walk through that space to access the restrooms. This project will triple the size of the children's area to 1,360 SF and build new restrooms in a more centralized location. The project will expand the teen area from 200 SF to 340 SF and enclose it in a large beautiful sunny room. The community has few meeting spaces, and the proposed addition would provide a much-needed ADA accessible community meeting/media/programs space. It will include two quiet rooms for secured access for telemedicine and other community needs. Technology will be more accessible with increased public computer access. It will increase the book processing/office space from 450 SF to 700 SF for the staff members. Currently, people with disabilities must park in the street and negotiate a sidewalk that is only 3 feet wide. The project will improve ADA accessibility with 6-foot-wide sidewalks and a dedicated ADA parking space. The library is currently heated with red kerosene; the project would upgrade this dangerous heating oil to solar powered heat pumps.

Word Count: 193 / 200

Describe the steps you took to determine that this need exists. For example, architectural reviews, building needs assessments, surveys, cost analyses, community meetings, focus groups, and the like. *

The project conceptual design was developed with significant input from the community, patrons, Friends of the Library, and library staff over fourteen meetings.

The attached Building Needs Assessment was completed, and all programmatic space evaluated. A cost analysis was prepared and architectural renderings, floor plans, elevations and a landscaping plan were developed and refined over multiple meetings with library staff and Friends of the Library. These conceptual designs were posted at various times throughout the process so library patrons and the general public could provide written/verbal input into the design. The Friends posted an advertisement asking for input in the local Fort Bragg Advocate newspaper, and they requested feedback on Facebook as well. The conceptual plans were reviewed by hundreds of community members. On April 25th, the plan was presented to the Board of Supervisors for review and input and the supervisors were unanimously supportive of the project. On May 9th it was presented to a well-attended community meeting where community members requested new programming activities which have been included in the final conceptual design.

Fort Bragg Branch Expansion and Renovation Project Application

Word Count: 175 / 200

Describe your proposed project, including specific information about how the project would meet the critical maintenance need described in your response above. *

The Fort Bragg Branch Expansion and Renovation project would include a 3,456 SF addition, a 792 SF Media/Community Room, a 342 SF Teen Room/collection, a 235 SF Local History Room/collection, an increase to the Children's area from 450 SF to 1,361 SF, two quiet rooms of 56 SF each, three restrooms, a computer area of 5,345 SF, and a new office and book processing area of 700 SF for employees. The project would increase space dedicated to collections by 1,791 SF, a 63% increase. The project would also replace the roof of the existing library, install solar panels and back up battery, and heat pumps to replace kerosene heat.

Word Count: 109 / 200

Describe your proposed project, including specific information about how the project would meet the energy efficiency need described in your response above. Please use estimated numerical data to support your answer. For example, "This project will reduce the library's power consumption by an estimated X kilowatt hours per month". *

The project will improve energy efficiency by replacing a red kerosene heater with energy-efficient heat pumps, installation of a Photovoltaics array with backup batteries.

The 74kW PV system will allow the facility to operate as a net Zero facility e.g. all energy needs of the building would be met by the onsite PV system. This would result in a 100% reduction in the 21,672 kWh that the library purchases annually from PG&E and a 100% reduction in the current 700+ gallons of kerosene used each year. The heat pump system would be powered by the PV system as would the lighting and computer loads. Additionally, our remote community often suffers from storm related power outages in the winter. The battery backup system would allow the building to be a critical community resource during such power outages.

Word Count: 136 / 200

Describe your proposed project, including specific information about how the project would meet the sustainability need described in your response above. Please use estimated numerical data to support your answer. For example, "this project will reduce the library's water consumption by an estimated X gallons per month". *

The project will showcase sustainability through advanced framing techniques, low-emissivity energy saving windows, use of sustainable materials, and improving indoor air quality, which will all improve the green building aspects of the site. Additionally, solar power with battery back-up and heat pumps will showcase sustainable energy production and reduce project heating and cooling costs to zero. Our rainwater catchment system will demonstrate effective storm water management and water conservation. The project's landscaping will be composed entirely of bee-friendly native plants and will showcase the Mendocino County Library native plant seed library.

Word Count: 91 / 200

Fort Bragg Branch Expansion and Renovation Project Application

Describe your proposed project, including specific information about how the project would meet the digital access need described in your response above. Please describe how the project will improve the number of additional users with access and/or the number of additional devices, services, and/or programs that will be made available. *

The project will expand the computer area, increase the number of devices, services, and digital access by providing quiet rooms for secure digital communications, and wireless printing. The existing building provides a small, dedicated computer lab of 125 SF with 6 computers. The addition will provide a distributed computer lab of 220 SF with space for 6 additional stations, more privacy for users, and two quiet rooms for personal teleconferencing. There will also be study space available for the users of the library's Chromebooks, which will be available for check out.

Word Count: 91 / 200

Describe your proposed project, including specific information about how the project would meet the physical access needs described in your response above. Please describe how the project will increase access under ADA guidelines, increase overall patron capacity, and/or increase availability of library materials and services to specific user communities or users. *

The project will expand physical access through the construction of an ADA parking area, upgrade from 3-foot-wide sidewalks in front of the library to ADA width, and a new ADA bathroom. The project will also result in an ADA accessible community meeting space. Capacity will be increased for more comfortable browsing and library use as well as increased space for materials and services. Circulation materials will be increased, with a special emphasis on children, teens, and Spanish language items.

Word Count: 79 / 200

If applicable, describe past attempts to fund this project, including other funding sources sought and key obstacles in securing funds. *

In 2016 the Friends of the Library purchased the lot next door to the branch for \$185,000 and have raised \$500,000+ in donations for the building's expansion. Over 90 people/businesses have donated \$1,000 each to the capital campaign with the remainder of the funds from other donors and the numerous Friends of the Library book sales. These funds will be deposited with the library to make up part of the cash match for the grant - an impressive track-record for a low-income rural community, but at the current rate it would take 25 years to raise funds for the expansion.

Word Count: 100 / 100

Describe how you will complete the project if only a portion of the requested funding is awarded. *

If only a portion of the funding is received, we will eliminate components of the project as organized by priority in the budget. If the first item in the budget is not completely funded (e.g., construction of the new building), we will engage in value engineering to eliminate non-essential components of the project, which may include downsizing the project and eliminating some of the proposed functions such as the media room, the meeting rooms, and one of the bathrooms. We also will pursue other potential grant opportunities, if available.

Word Count: 89 / 100

Explain how you created the project budget. How were costs determined? *

Costs were developed by the design team by calculating construction costs per SF from other similar prevailing-wage projects constructed in Fort Bragg in the past three years. The costs/SF were then escalated by an annual construction cost escalator for the San Francisco Bay Area, the degree of similarity/difficulty between the library project, and comparable projects. The construction cost estimate was reviewed by a licensed contractor and the County Facility project team. Rough estimates for subcontractor work were obtained from area subs who have bid on other prevailing wage jobs in the past three years.

Word Count: 94 / 100