

Contra Costa County Library Foundation: \$50,000 (One-time)

In early 2021, the county librarian brought together an informal group of library supporters so that they could begin the work of establishing a countywide library foundation. Once established, the goal of the Contra Costa Library Foundation will be to secure additional funding for the library in order to further support its strategic priorities. Foundation funding will enhance public revenue and will be used to address opportunity and equity gaps in services, programs, and facilities; and provide funds for services that cannot be attained through existing revenue sources that will benefit the entirety of the county's residents.

The foundation will be an independent nonprofit organization that works with the community to raise funds for critically-needed programs and services delivered by the library system. The foundation's initial priorities will include raising funds for electronic resources that can be used by all county residents; strengthening the capacity of local library "Friends" groups through an affiliate program; and supporting capital projects in low-income communities.

A one-time allocation of \$50,000 in seed money will allow the Foundation Organizing Committee to:

- Enlist professional legal and financial expertise to assist with creating the foundation's fiscal and organizational structure and registration as a CA 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- Create a website presence and fund online hosting costs associated with a website

Contra Costa County is the only library system in the Bay Area without a county-wide foundation. \$50,000 in seed funding would signal the Board of Supervisors' endorsement for its creation and in so doing, would provide a powerful lever to attract strong board leadership and private funds for ongoing support and program development.

Attached is the \$300,000 proposal submitted by the Contra Costa Library Foundation Organizing Committee.

Recommendation

A one-time allocation of \$50,000 is recommended to support the establishment of the Foundation.