

GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARIES

Teen Mural

This grant will fund three murals in the Oroville, Durham, and Chico branches, in or around the teen areas. The teens of our county are a largely underserved group in the library system, with most programs across all six branches usually focusing on children or adults. The teen areas and YA collections for all branches but Chico are largely outdated, forgotten about, or in some cases of the teen spaces, simply nonexistent. The murals will be marketed as a contest for the Oroville, Durham, and Chico branches, encouraging teens to submit their artwork in hopes of being chosen to paint the mural. It's my hope that teaming up with local teens to complete these murals will be a step in the right direction, allowing teens the opportunity to update the teen spaces and the collections of their local branches, ultimately resulting in the more frequent use of the teen space and the teen services we offer. Funds from the grant will be used to purchase teen titles for all six branches.

Library Training Sessions

The unemployment rate in Butte County is about 12%, after hitting a maximum of 15.5% in August 2020. This is the highest it has been for 20 years. The library is working on creating the Butte County Library REACH Project (Reconnect, Engage Adults, Create, Hope) to help the residents of Butte County gain new knowledge, and build connections and confidence to reenter the workforce or start their small business. Part of this project is the creation and hosting of training sessions – small-group classes where residents will be able to learn how to use Microsoft Word, use QuickBooks, and create an email account, just to name a few, to help their entrepreneurship or workforce reentry. What is needed to make this aspect of the REACH Project successful is the purchase of tablets, hotspots, laptops and several software licenses. These will be used in the training sessions by the students and staff, but also can be checked out for the students to use their newly-learned skills at home.

Book Club

The Chico Library Book Club has been meeting monthly since 2015, and have continued to meet virtually during the pandemic. The titles for the book club have always been chosen from the Book Club in a Box sets that are housed in Oroville. The Book Club in a Box sets are primarily older titles that have been either discarded from the Butte County Library collection, collected from donations or sets from the North State Cooperative Library System. Most titles are three years old or older. The Chico Friends of the Library also contribute two sets a year to Book Club in a Box, through a memorial donation. The sets are loaned to any public group that would like

a set of titles for a book club. Currently, the Chico Book Club has exhausted the choices offered by these sets. It would be beneficial to the book club, and the community to have sets of newer, higher interest titles to lend the local book clubs. These new titles would also be available to any other book club in the area, or through the North State Cooperative System.

YA Virtual Book Club

Butte County Library's Youth Services division is proposing a monthly online book club, to be facilitated by up to three library assistants from both Oroville and Chico branch libraries, who specialize in young adult programs and collection development. The crux of our request is to support the purchasing of books for the teen readers to read and keep, as incentive to join the club, and as a reward for participating. This approach would enable the youth services team to select current and sought-after publications, by not depending solely on older titles that may already be available as club box sets. Reading for fun is at the heart of this request, with the added benefit of forging bonds and relationships with the Library and peers at the same time.

Podcast

In order to reach community members outside library walls, and to appeal to a difficult to reach demographic, the library will create a podcast that promotes reading and literacy, and showcases library services. The twice monthly podcast will be hosted by two Branch Librarians discussing topics related to books and the library. By taking advantage of this increasingly popular medium, the Butte County Library will position itself as adopters of current technological and communication trends.

REACH: Reconnect Engage Adults Creating Hope

According to Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) 11% of Butte County's population does not have a high school education. The library's Literacy Services seeks to expand their REACH (reconnect, engage, adults, creating, hope) and support our residents with their ambitions to pursue their high school diploma by offering a total of six scholarships with the fully accredited Career Online High School. Career Online High School offers adults 19 years and older a certificate in one of ten career areas, academic coaching and a path to a high school diploma. Three scholarships at \$1095 each would be paid for by Northern Valley Community Foundation while three at \$1095 each would be funded by a state-to-local match from the California State Library (pending application approval) providing a chance for six adults to receive their high school diploma for free.