

**CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA)
FISCAL YEAR 2017/2018
PITCH-AN-IDEA GRANT APPLICATION**

ELEMENT 1: BASIC INFORMATION (please see application instructions for additional information)

Applicant Information

- | | | | |
|---|--|--------------|------------|
| 1. Library/Organization | 2. Library's DUNS Number | | |
| San Mateo County Libraries | 60-951-2058 | | |
| 3. Legal Business Name (must match name registered with Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)) | | | |
| San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority | | | |
| 4. Project Coordinator Name | 5. Project Coordinator Title | | |
| Anne-Marie Malley, Kathleen Beasley, Ally Garcia | Library Branch Managers | | |
| 6. Email Address | 7. Business Phone Number | | |
| malley@smcl.org; beasley@smcl.org; garcia@smcl.org | 650-726-2316; 650-591-8286; 650-591-0341 | | |
| 8. Mailing Address | City | State | Zip |
| 125 Lessingia Court | San Mateo | CA | 94402 |

Project Information

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 9. Project Title | Community Conversations |
| 10. LSTA Funds Requested | \$22,100 |
| 11. Cash Match & In-Kind | \$76,210 |
| 12. Total Project Cost | \$98,310 |
| 13. California's LSTA Goals (Check one goal that best describes the project) | |

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literate California | <input type="checkbox"/> Bridging the Digital Divide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 st Century Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Connections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 22 nd Century Tools | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Connections |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Content Creation/Preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Ensuring Library Access for All |

- 14. Primary Audience for project (Select all that apply.)**

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adults | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-School Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Families | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Populations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrants/Refugees | <input type="checkbox"/> School Age Children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intergenerational Groups (Excluding Families) | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library Staff , Volunteers and/or Trustees | <input type="checkbox"/> Statewide Public |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Income | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban Populations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non/Limited English Speaking Persons | <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People with Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Populations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People with Limited Functional Literacy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Young Adults and Teens |

ELEMENT 2: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Describe how this project was identified as a need, how it relates to your library's strategic plan, what will be accomplished if this project is implemented, and how you will know whether your project is successful. Summary should relate to activities in the timeline (Element 4) and include statistical information to support the project.

Within the apparent politically blue bubble of San Mateo County there is a very real divide. Although 2016 election maps show San Mateo County as solidly Democratic, if one drills down, a portion of every city voted Republican, from a high of 41% in Atherton to a low of 8% in East Palo Alto. Emotions continue to run high six months after the elections, and community members with opposing viewpoints are experiencing difficulty coming back together. In our libraries, patrons whisper of their support or opposition of our new administration, fearing disapproval from other library users if they speak their thoughts aloud. Immigrant patrons have burst into tears because of their worry about what the future holds for them. By March 23rd, anti-Semitic graffiti had twice been scrawled over Belmont High School Campus prompting the Belmont City Council to "approve changes to the city's vision statement to include language referring to the city's commitment to diversity and inclusion of residents of all backgrounds." While many were stirred by the Council's response, a dismaying number of residents have expressed complete disaffection with the entire political process, a sentiment which is also expressed in our voter returns. 2016 turnout was a relatively healthy 81.6% of registered voters, but only 50% of the population is registered to vote, with a high of 76.1% in affluent Portola Valley to a low of 30% in lower-income East Palo Alto – statistics that speak volumes about the haves and have nots of our county.

In January, a local grandfather took librarians aside after his weekly visit to our science club and said, "Your programs in the San Mateo County Libraries are wonderful, but there is one glaring omission – you don't provide a venue for face to face civic discussion among community members." In March, after the anti-Semitic campus graffiti, another longtime patron sighed, "We need to have a comparative religions class here in the library." These appeals for community engagement have stepped up, and patrons from Half Moon Bay to Belmont have asked that the library, as a safe and welcoming community gathering place, facilitate unbiased civic discussions. The mission of the San Mateo County Libraries is to strengthen our community by creating an inclusive sense of place and environment for learning.

"Community Conversations" will provide opportunities for learning that will encourage neighbors with different political beliefs to listen, evaluate, communicate, and perhaps even generate ideas for creative compromise. The project will accomplish this by funding 36 or more workshops throughout the San Mateo County Library system. Each workshop will combine an authoritative talk followed by facilitated community dialogue. Presenters will include key stakeholders in our communities such as City Council members, San Mateo County government agencies, and business owners; educators from respected institutions such as Stanford University and Notre Dame de Namur University; and leaders of local health districts and school districts. The series will be facilitated by staff from the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center who will pose relevant, thought-provoking, questions.

This year of intentional learning will be guided by our strategic goal of understanding community needs and promoting meaningful library services as solutions. Topics will include an overview of the US Constitution and the way in which the three branches of the federal government interact; the role of a free press in a democracy; ways in which immigration impacts San Mateo County; the state of health care and public education in San Mateo County; comparative religions and the overlapping issues of religious tolerance and civil rights; environmental issues in San Mateo County; and the housing and related transportation crisis in the Bay Area. These topics were suggested informally by library patrons and formally by an ad-hoc, non-partisan committee consisting of religious, political, governmental, and educational leaders. We also asked the managers of all twelve of our branches to suggest the hot-button issues in their communities, and our Library Director has discussed the topics with our Governing Board and Operations Committee representatives. We plan to survey participants at the end of each workshop, including on their ideas for future topics, and have enough flexibility and administrative support to add topics that we may not have initially considered.

We intentionally begin with an overview of the constitution because it is the bedrock of civic life, and while most adults studied it in high school, their recollections may have faded over time. In other cases, the timing of a particular topic coincides with a major community initiative. We plan to cover the housing and transportation crisis in November because our efforts will complement San Mateo County's "Home for All" initiative, its community outreach pilot to address county-wide housing issues. It is our goal that by the end of this series participants will have a greater understanding of the federal, state, and local governments and the ways in which they interact to serve constituents; that participants will more effectively communicate with their elected officials; and that participants will have acquired skills to better communicate with others holding differing views.

ELEMENT 3: PARTNERSHIPS

Please list all formal partners for your project here. Please attach (under Element 7) a copy of your signed agreement with each partner, which outlines the role the partner will play and the resources the partner will contribute.

Partner Name	Organization Type (see instructions for valid entries)	Legal Type (see instructions for valid entries)	Role on Project	Resources That Partner Will Contribute (materials/funds/staff)

ELEMENT 4: PLANNING AND EVALUATION

Please answer each area concisely and completely. For section A-F limit responses to four pages.

A. Project Intent (Check only one that best describes the project)

Lifelong Learning

- Improve users' formal education
- Improve users' general knowledge and skills

Information Access

- Improve users' ability to discover information
- Improve users' ability to obtain information resources

Institutional Capacity

- Improve the library workforce
- Improve the library's physical and technology infrastructure
- Improve library's operations

Economic & Employment Development

- Improve users' ability to use resources and apply information for employment support
- Improve users' ability to use and apply business resources

Human Services

- Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal, family, or household finances
- Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their personal or family health & wellness
- Improve users' ability to apply information that furthers their parenting and family skills

Civic engagement

- Improve users' ability to participate in their community
- Improve users' ability to participate in community conversation around topics of concern

B. Project Purpose – Short statement which answers the questions: we will do what, for whom, for what expected benefit(s).

“Community Conversations” is a series of civic engagement programs brought to the 11 communities of the San Mateo County Library System over the course of the grant period. Each month, we will host local experts on topics identified by community members as being of concern, followed by professionally facilitated dialogues. Our goal is to provide a safe, inclusive space for members of our community from different walks of life, and of differing views, to listen and learn from one another. The result of these programs will be stronger community connections, a stronger grasp of local, state and national government, and a more engaged electorate.

C. Anticipated Project Outputs – Measures of services and/or products to be created/provided.

3 or more monthly workshops encompassing 12 key topics will be held from September 2017-August 2018, for a total of 36 or more. Workshops will be spread among twelve branch libraries and selected outreach venues, and each one will have an average of 30 participants.

1,000 copies of the US constitution will be given away.

5,000 brochures of the program will be designed, printed and distributed.

4 or more of our branch libraries will be Vote Centers as part of San Mateo County Elections SB450 pilot.

3 or more letter writing parties to elected officials, open to all ages, will be hosted.

3 or more “Follow the Bill” programs will be presented by local organizations.

8 library staff will be trained to facilitate future “Community Conversations” by the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center.

333 books will be purchased and added to the library’s collection to support project topics.

D. Anticipated Project Outcome(s) – What change is expected in the target audience’s skills, knowledge, behavior, attitude, and/or status/life condition? How will you measure these outcomes? (for examples see attachment B of the application instructions)

90% of participants will have a greater understanding of federal and state and local governments and the ways in which they interact to benefit their constituents, measured through surveys administered at the end of each workshop.

75% of participants will be better equipped to effectively communicate with their legislators on critical issues, measured by surveys administered at the end of each workshop.

75% of participants will be better equipped to express their opinions at City Council Meetings, measured by surveys administered at the end of selected workshops.

75% of participants will be better able to respectfully communicate with others with differing views on issues, measured by surveys administered at the end of each workshop.

At least 4 nonprofit and 4 governmental support agencies will have indicated that they have a closer working relationship with San Mateo County Libraries as measured by successful workshop co-development, future collaborative projects, and surveys administered at the end of selected workshops.

100 % of librarians trained will be more comfortable with facilitating stressful dialogues.

E. Briefly describe how this project will be financially supported in the future.

Based on program evaluations, we will continue components of it on a monthly to quarterly basis. The SMCL Library Director is highly supportive of this program and has guaranteed a funding source in the library's budget after the grant cycle is complete. The grant proposal has already been highlighted to the SMCL JPA Governing Board and Operations Committee and received support and interest. We have the support of local Friends of the Libraries who sponsor and are particularly interested in programs that engage and strengthen the community. We will also continue to partner with local educators, our local governments, and non-partisan not-for-profit groups whose mission is to serve in this capacity without charge. We are confident of the importance of this series, and committed to keeping "Community Conversations" a continuous program.

F. Activity Information. Activities are action(s) through which the intent or objective of a project are accomplished. Four activity types have been identified, each with select methods to help you describe how you will carry out this project. Indicate activity types that require a significant commitment of resources to the project (representing 10% or more of total project resources).

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: Program: This grant will fund 36 or more workshops throughout the San Mateo County Library system. The format of the community meetings will include a 10 minute facilitated discussion of agreements and goals for the program, 45-minute unbiased overview of the topic presented by a local leader in the field, 45- minute facilitated small group conversations and a 20-minute closing activity to share conversations and ideas on how to continue the discussion. Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center staff will assist in designing the process for the meetings, train library staff on facilitation and will facilitate many of the meetings.

Program: Two different kickoff events in different parts of San Mateo County. Half Moon Bay Brewing Company will host a "Brews and Views" conversation highlighting the role of libraries as community builders.

Program: Belmont Library will host Libby and Len Traubman, who have spent their lives creating safe places of listening that dignify everyone. Their inspiring story from living room dialogues to Palestinian/Jewish Peacemakers Camps will set the tone we hope to convey at all our subsequent community meetings.

Program: Elected official letter-writing parties will be held at various libraries, providing participants with an opportunity to share their views and opinions directly with their representatives. Librarians will facilitate the programs; postcards and stamps will be provided by the libraries; and refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Libraries.

Consultation: Local chapters of the AAUW and the San Mateo County Office of Elections will collaborate with the

libraries to staff at least twelve tables equipped to help people register to vote throughout the County during the two months preceding the California Primary Elections and provide information on how the new Vote Centers work.

Consultation: In collaboration with San Mateo County Elections, libraries will help to pilot Vote Centers as part of Senate Bill SB 450 implementation during the 2018 elections. These Vote Centers will replace polling places and allow anyone who lives in San Mateo County to vote at any of the 40 proposed Vote Centers, so that people can choose the most conveniently located center. In addition, they will be open for three weeks leading up to and including Election day.

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: We will work closely with our speakers and our Access Services Department to select print and AV materials that enhance our identified topics. These newly purchased items will be featured in special displays, and in printed and online reading lists. These materials will increase awareness of the program and extend learning, and will remain in our collection, helping to keep civic thought alive, even after the grant period has ended.

We will create supplemental handouts and support materials for each topic, including 1000 free copies of the US Constitution. For those unable to participate, we will record and post videos in a way that is easily accessible to the general public, such as via YouTube and on the SMCL website.

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:

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

ELEMENT 5: GRANT TIMELINE/ACTIVITIES

Show each major project activity and when it will be started and/or completed throughout the project. The timeline should correspond to the activities described in Planning and Evaluation. Please put an X in each pertaining month.

Activity	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
Planning, purchasing, and publicity creation (print and online)	X													
Work with PCRC to co-design community dialogues process	X	X												
PCRC will train selected staff to help facilitate workshops		X	X											
Half Moon Bay & Belmont Library kick-off promotions			X											
Write LSTA reports			X			X			X			X		X
Constitution teach-ins and "Follow the Bill" workshops				X										
Letter writing parties (to elected representatives)			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Workshops on the local housing & transportation crisis					X									
Workshops on comparative religions & tolerance issues						X								
Workshops on immigration issues and how they affect San Mateo County residents							X							
Workshops on public education and its role in our democracy								X						
Workshops on the state of health care in San Mateo County									X					
Work with San Mateo County Elections Dept. to pilot 4 library Voting Centers										X	X	X	X	
Voter registration drives in partnership with County Election Dept & local AAUWs									X	X	X			
Workshops on local environmental issues.										X				
The League of Women Voters explain the 2018 CA Propositions											X			
Workshops on the role of a free press in our democracy												X		
Workshops to differentiate between facts, bias & fake news												X		
City Council Members present programs on getting involved in local government													X	X
Conduct interviews and focus groups with participants and presenters													X	X
Evaluate programs and generate reports													X	X

ELEMENT6: BUDGET

The budget should clearly identify the amounts requested and from what sources.

Budget Category	LSTA	Cash Match & In-Kind	Total
Salaries/Wages/Benefits			
Communications Manager – 10 hours @ \$57 per hour (0.004 FTE)	\$0	\$570	\$570
Project Coordinators - 80 hours @ \$55 per hour (.038 FTE)	\$0	\$4,400	\$4,400
Program Specialists - 800 hours @ \$37 per hour (.385 FTE)	\$0	\$29,600	\$29,600
Library Assistants - 390 hours @ \$25 per hour (.187 FTE)	\$0	\$9,750	\$9,750
Interns - 96 hours @ \$20 per hour (.046 FTE)	\$,0	\$1,920	\$1,920
Admin. Support & Oversight - 10 hours @ \$57 per hr. (0.004 FTE)	\$0	\$570	\$570
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$46,810	\$46,810

Description: Our Communications Manager will oversee the production of printed and online publicity for the program. Project Coordinators are Branch Managers and will provide planning and supervision of the grant. Both Librarians and Community Program Specialists develop and implement programs in our library system, and are paid comparably. We estimate that they will work 22.2 hours per workshop, including some facilitation training. Library assistants and paid interns will supply 486 hours of additional support to all programs. Administration Support and Oversight will be provided by Financial Services staff overseeing the grant funds. Budget includes salaries, not benefits.

Consultant Fees			
Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center	\$15,420	\$2,000	\$17,420
Graphic designer for postcards and program	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000
Speaker, author fees and honorariums for presentations/workshops	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000
Community Supporters - In-kind Support	\$0	\$18,000	\$18,000
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$17,420	\$23,000	\$40,420

Description: Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center staff will assist with designing the process of the meetings, train key library staff on facilitation and will provide facilitators for many of the meetings. Graphic designer for development of logo, postcards, program and branch inserts. Fees or honorariums for content specialists.

Community Supporters in-kind support is an estimate of the amount of hours our local community supporters will devote to their portion of the program. We approximated 10 hours per agency at an average rate of \$50 per hour. Community supporters include: San Mateo County Housing Department, San Mateo Elections, Stanford University, Notre Dame de Namur University, AAUW, League of Women Voters, Sequoia Union High School, Half Moon Bay Brewing Company, Sequoia Health Care.

Budget Category	LSTA	Cash Match & In-Kind	Total
Travel			
Meeting and program mileage for staff.	\$0	\$800	\$800
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$800	\$800

Description: Mileage reimbursement for staff to attend meetings and/or participate in programs at branches.

Supplies/Materials			
Brochure design & printing – 5000 copies @ \$.38 each	\$1,900	\$0	\$1,900
Postcards - 2000 @ .55 each	\$1,100	\$0	\$1,100
2000 postcard stamps @ .34 each	\$680	\$0	\$680
333 books to expand collections @ average \$15 each	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
Local printing - program inserts, reading lists, surveys, etc.	\$0	\$600	\$600
Copies of the Constitution - 1000 @ \$1 each	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$4,680	\$5,600	\$10,280

Description:

Brochures for the full year of programs will be in color. Postcards and stamps will be utilized in the letter-writing campaigns. Copies of the Constitution will be available for giveaway at all branches and distributed at programs.

Branch specific program inserts and topic reading lists will be developed and printed by the library. 333 new books related to monthly topics will be purchased by the library and will be available for loan at all branches.

Budget Category	LSTA	Cash Match & In-Kind	Total
Equipment (\$5,000 or more per unit)	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0

Description:

Services			
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal	\$0	\$0	\$0

Description:

Project Total	\$22,100	\$76,210	\$98,310
Indirect Cost Rate Applied	%	Indirect Cost	\$0
Check one:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Indirect	<input type="checkbox"/> Federally negotiated indirect cost rate *	<input type="checkbox"/> Indirect proposed cost rate *	
* please attach supporting documentation if required			
Description:			
Grand Total	\$22,100	\$76,210	\$98,310

ELEMENT 7: ATTACHMENTS

If you have additional resources that support your grant, please attach after this page

ELEMENT 8: INTERNET CERTIFICATION

Check the Appropriate Library Type

Public Library **Academic** **K-12** **Multi-Type** **Special/Other**

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant public library, public elementary school library or public secondary school library applying for LSTA funding, I hereby certify that the library is (*check only one of the following boxes*)

A. An individual applicant that is CIPA compliant.

The applicant library, as a public library, a public elementary school library or public secondary school library, has complied with the requirements of Section 9134(f)(1) of the Library Services and Technology Act.

B. Representing a group of applicants. Those applicants that are subject to CIPA requirements have certified they are CIPA compliant.

All public libraries, public elementary school libraries, and public secondary school libraries, participating in the application have complied with the requirements of Section 9134(f)(1) of the Library Services and Technology Act. The library submitting this application has collected Internet Safety Certifications from all other applicants who are subject to CIPA requirements. The library will keep these certifications on file with other application materials, and if awarded funds, with other project records.

C. Not Subject to CIPA Requirements.

The CIPA requirements do not apply because no funds made available under this LSTA grant program will be used to purchase computers used to access the Internet or to pay for direct costs associated with accessing the Internet.

SIGNATURE

I have read and support this LSTA Grant Application.

San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority
Library/Organization

Community Conversations
Project Name

Anne-Marie Despain
Library Director Name

Director of Library Services
Title

Library Director Signature

Date



San Mateo
County
Libraries

Letter of Support from Lenny Mendonca and the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company to the San Mateo County Libraries

This letter sets forth the understanding between Lenny Mendonca and the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company and the San Mateo County Libraries to partner in the delivery of *Community Conversations* as described below.

Statement of purpose: Community Conversations will provide opportunities for learning that will encourage neighbors with different political beliefs to listen, evaluate, communicate, and perhaps even generate creative compromise.

The project has three primary goals:

- participants will have a greater understanding of the federal, state, and local governments and the ways in which they interact with local service providers;*
- participants will feel more engaged with the political process;*
- participants will feel closer social connections with each other*

Background

Brews and Views is a free monthly event hosted by the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company that brings in guest speakers to talk about a variety of political and social issues. For example, Brews and Views is offering a discussion about cross-partisan coalition community building on June 13, 2017. Lenny Mendonca is the owner of the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company and a director emeritus from the Washington D.C. and San Francisco offices of McKinsey & Company

Role/Commitments

Lenny Mendonca and the Half Moon Bay Brewing Company will offer a Brews and Views on September 21, 2017 that will highlight the role of libraries as community centers and will serve as one of the kick-off events for Community Conversations. Brews and Views will also offer programs during the year that relate to the topics being discussed at the monthly library conversations.

Contact Information

Lenny Mendonca
Half Moon Bay Brewing Company
390 Capistrano Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
650-728-2739
lenny@themendoncas.net

Anne Marie Malley
Library Manager, Half Moon Bay Library
225 South Cabrillo Highway, Suite 104B
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
650-726-2316 x 227
malley@smcl.org


(Partner signature)

Half Moon Bay
Organization: Half Moon Bay Date: 5/26/17


(Partner signature)

San Mateo County
Library
Organization: San Mateo County Date: 5/27/17



Letter of Support from Antero Garcia to the San Mateo County Libraries

This letter sets forth the understanding between Antero Garcia and the San Mateo County Libraries to partner in the delivery of *Community Conversations* as described below.

Statement of purpose: Community Conversations will provide opportunities for learning that will encourage neighbors with different political beliefs to listen, evaluate, communicate, and perhaps even generate creative compromise.

The project has three primary goals:

- *participants will have a greater understanding of the federal, state, and local governments and the ways in which they interact with local service providers;*
- *participants will feel more engaged with the political process;*
- *participants will feel closer social connections with each other*

Background

Antero Garcia is an Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Education at Stanford University. Prior to completing his Ph.D., Antero was an English teacher at a public high school in South Central Los Angeles. Through work focused on increasing equitable teaching and learning opportunities for urban youth through the use of participatory media and gameplay, Antero co-designed the Critical Design and Gaming School - a public high school currently open in South Central Los Angeles. Further, in 2008 Antero co-developed the Black Cloud Game. Antero is a 2010-2011 U.S. Department of Education Teaching Ambassador Fellow, providing teacher input and feedback on national education policy initiatives.

Antero's numerous publications and conference presentations address technology, educational equity, and critical media literacy.

Role/Commitments

Antero has agreed to present as many as three hour-long talks on the challenges and hope in public education to as many as three libraries in the San Mateo County Libraries during the month of February, 2018. The exact dates will soon be determined. These talks will include 15 minutes of Q and A. Antero has declined to accept an honorarium for these talks.

Administration
125 Lessingia Court
San Mateo CA 94402
650.312.5258
smcl.org

Open for Exploration™

Atherton
2 Dinkelspiel Station Lane
Atherton CA 94027

Belmont
1110 Alameda de las Pulgas
Belmont CA 94002

Brisbane
250 Visitacion Avenue
Brisbane CA 94005

East Palo Alto
2415 University Avenue
East Palo Alto CA 94303

Foster City
1000 East Hillsdale Boulevard
Foster City CA 94404

Half Moon Bay
225 S. Cabrillo Highway #104B
Half Moon Bay CA 94019

Millbrae
1 Library Avenue
Millbrae CA 94030

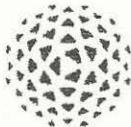
Pacifica Sanchez
1111 Terra Nova Boulevard
Pacifica CA 94044

Pacifica Sharp Park
104 Hilton Way
Pacifica CA 94044

Portola Valley
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley CA 94028

San Carlos
610 Elm Street
San Carlos CA 94070

Woodside
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San Mateo
County
Libraries

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Antero Garcia (Partner signature) Organization: Stanford Date: 5/30/17

Ally Garcia (Partner signature) Organization: San Mateo County Libraries Date: 5/30/17



Letter of Support from Alan Sarver to the San Mateo County Libraries

This letter sets forth the understanding between Alan Sarver and the San Mateo County Libraries to partner in the delivery of *Community Conversation* as described below.

Statement of purpose: Community Conversations will provide opportunities for learning that will encourage neighbors with different political beliefs to listen, evaluate, communicate, and perhaps even generate creative compromise.

The project has three primary goals:

- *participants will have a greater understanding of the federal, state, and local governments and the ways in which they interact with local service providers;*
- *participants will feel more engaged with the political process;*
- *participants will feel closer social connections with each other*

Background

Sequoia Union High School District Trustee Alan Sarver comes with many years of experience helping to guide the policies and procedures of the district. He cares deeply about public education and has devoted much personal time and expense to the volunteer group, School Force, which annually raises thousands of dollars for the school district. In addition, he leads a volunteer group known as Music Mentors which partners an experienced high school musician with a beginning elementary school musician. During the summer, these tutoring pairs meet in the library. Alan's relationship with the library began many years ago, and he has always seen the empowering possibilities of the educational opportunities that the library offers.

Role/Commitments

Alan has agreed to present as many as three hour-long talks on the history of public education to as many as three libraries in the San Mateo County Libraries during the month of February, 2018. The exact dates will soon be determined. These talks will include 15 minutes of Q and A. Alan has declined to accept an honorarium for these talks.



San Mateo
County
Libraries

Contact Information

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Belmont Library

Kathleen Beasley

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SEQUOIA UNION

Alan Sarver
(Partner signature)

Organization: HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT Date: 5/27/17

Kathleen Beasley
(Partner signature)

San Mateo
Organization: County Library Date: 5/31/17



Letter of Support from Emily Sarver to the San Mateo County Libraries

This letter sets forth the understanding between Emily Sarver and the San Mateo County Libraries to partner in the delivery of *Community Conversations* as described below.

Statement of purpose: Community Conversations will provide opportunities for learning that will encourage neighbors with different political beliefs to listen, evaluate, communicate, and perhaps even generate creative compromise.

The project has three primary goals:

- participants will have a greater understanding of the federal, state, and local governments and the ways in which they interact to serve constituents;
- participants will more effectively communicate with their elected officials;
- participants will have acquired skills to better communicate with others holding differing views.

Background

San Mateo County PTA President-elect Emily Sarver has spent many years on the board implementing programs to help students and their families. The PTA has been following congressional bills that affect public education for many years, and Emily has become an expert.

Role/Commitments

Emily has agreed to coordinate as many as three hour-long demonstrations on "How to Follow a Bill" to as many as three libraries in the San Mateo County Libraries during the month of October, 2018. The exact dates will soon be determined. These talks will include 15 minutes of Q and A. Emily has declined to accept an honorarium for these talks.

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Emily Sarver Organization: *17th District PTA* Date: *5/29/2017*
(Partner signature) *San Mateo*

Kathleen Beasley Organization: *County Library* Date: *5/31/2017*
(Partner signature)

Swastikas drawn at high school alarm community: Families and educators dismayed by anti-Semitic graffiti at Carlmont High School

March 23, 2017, 05:00 AM By Austin Walsh Daily Journal Staff

Anti-Semitic graffiti twice scrawled at Carlmont High School alarmed students, parents, school officials and community members who believe the disrespectful behavior is unacceptable.

Students drew swastikas and a disparaging message in chalk at the Belmont campus on two separate occasions over the past few weeks, inviting a swell of frustration and concern from the school community.

"It's kind of alarming," said Cheryl Selman, a Belmont resident with two children enrolled in the school.

Those responsible for drawing the swastikas have been identified and punished accordingly, said Jim Lianides, superintendent of the Sequoia Union High School District. School officials have also held meetings to address issues raised by the community and distributed a notice read in classrooms promoting a dedication to cultural sensitivity.

"There were two instances of offensive graffiti directed at Jews written with chalk on the blacktop on campus," said Lianides in an email. "The two students were identified by Carlmont staff and appropriate follow-up action was taken."

He added the graffiti was especially disturbing, as the school works to assure all students feel included.

"Sadly, these two incidents occurred several days after the very successful Heritage Fair that Carlmont holds annually to celebrate the many cultures that make up its student body," he said. "The Sequoia Union High School District embraces the diversity within our community and places a very high value on maintaining safe, supportive campuses."

Selman credited the response of Carlmont Principal Ralph Crame in addressing the frustrations and fears raised by members of the school community.

"I think this is new to him, and I believe he is reaching out to people at the district level and I think that is the appropriate response," she said. "He's not an expert in this area ... I think he now realizes he has to take action and now knows there are resources and I think he is making use of them. I think he should continue to do that and I feel reasonably confident that he will."

Crame deferred all questions regarding the incidents to Lianides.

Paula Meier, a parent of a former student at the school, attended one of the community meetings and said many present were frustrated.

"This is not OK. How do you make sure they know this is not OK? Obviously, I may not agree with another Jew on the politics of the Middle East or whatever," she said. "But what about respect for each other? Especially in this area where there is diversity."

Meier's friend Elizabeth Stone said she too was discomfited by anti-Semitism being expressed on a local high school campus.

"When I see this kind of thing in our community, I think it is alarming," she said.

Selman said the issue has presented an opportunity to discuss with her children the challenging issues surrounding cultural and racial intolerance.

"How do you explain to a child why people dislike your group of people? Your ethnicity? It's a very hard thing and they can't wrap their head around it," she said.

She added her children do not feel endangered while at school.

"I am not concerned for their safety. I haven't heard of any kids feeling concerned for their physical safety," she said. "They are concerned about what people think, for sure."

Selman noted ignorant or bigoted behavior can be common among adolescents who may not entirely understand the harm brought by their actions. But she is afraid a degree of anti-Semitism has become more socially acceptable in the wake of the divisive rhetoric expressed by President Donald Trump.

"He explicitly has anti-Semitic supporters. It's hard to see how that affects what kids in high school are exposed to," she said. "But the alt-right seems much more louder now ... it's a different time. Kids are exposed much more because they can go online, and it's out there and there is certainly more of it now."

That the students are still in their formative years grants an opportunity for early intervention to teach them how harmful such prejudiced behavior can be, said Selman.

"They are not fully formed," she said. "But that's why we can influence them now and we can teach them."

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Resounding support for inclusion in Belmont: Civil rights resolution marks a first step for city

March 30, 2017, 05:00 AM By Anna Schuessler Daily Journal staff

Belmont City Hall was full Tuesday as the council approved a resolution affirming the city's commitment to civil rights.

The statement reaffirmed the city's diversity as a community strength, reassured residents that the city would not tolerate prejudice and confirmed that the Belmont Police Department is not responsible for enforcing immigration laws, among other items. In a related effort, the council also approved changes to the city's vision statement to include language referring to the city's commitment to diversity and inclusion of residents of all backgrounds.

Councilwoman Davina Hurt worked with Mayor Charles Stone to introduce the resolution.

"This is a conversation about people's basic civil rights ... and [people] feeling comfortable and safe where they live," she said. "In my mind this is a living document, this is a first step. And I think it's a good one."

Close to 25 people spoke in favor of the resolution, with residents sharing personal stories of the immigration experience and their support for a community statement of values.

Salah Elbakri represented the Muslim community-based nonprofit Yaseen Foundation in sharing his support for the city's proclamation of its values.

"I came tonight because it's part of our DNA as Americans to hold and cherish social justice values," he said. "The moment we betray that, we betray our identity."

Solea Wentz, an eighth-grade student at Ralston Middle School, said she came to Tuesday's discussion with her mother out of solidarity of friends from other countries.

"I think it's important that immigrants be able to stay here and not be questioned," she said.

Others acknowledged the merits of the resolution and urged the council to include stronger language in the resolution.

Sara Matlin, chair of the American Civil Liberties Union's North Peninsula Chapter, praised city officials for taking this first step but expressed concern that crucial protections for Belmont community members were not included in the resolution.

"We think the concept of the resolution was a good one," she said, acknowledging that actions and attitudes stemming from leaders in the federal government have been the cause of concern for many residents. "But state inaction is also a problem."

Matlin said that members of the ACLU had partnered with those involved with the Mid-Peninsula Coalition for Human Rights to encourage the resolution's supporters to advocate for language that more explicitly protects community members.

Among the additions they urged the council to consider was an assertion the city will not use Belmont funds or resources to do the federal government's work, a statement that personal identification information would not be collected by the city unless needed for law enforcement purposes and confirmation that no residents would be subjected to a religious test.

Councilman Warren Lieberman was dismayed by some of the reflections expressed Tuesday and through emails the city received prior to the meeting. They included fear and uncertainty among students and parents following anti-Semitic graffiti at Carlmont High School in recent weeks. He was hopeful the resolution would demonstrate to residents that behaviors or attitudes reflecting racism and bigotry would not be supported by the city. Though Lieberman estimated about 10 percent of the emails the city received were against the resolution, he felt a majority of them mistook the intent of the resolution, which he said focused on including everyone in the community, and did not make any statement about becoming a sanctuary city.

"It truly is providing principles and concepts that we should all want to live by," he said.

Lieberman suggested the council consider alphabetizing the examples of prejudice and bigotry included in a section of the resolution detailing intolerant attitudes the city would reject so there would not be a question of which attitudes the city deemed most urgent. This suggestion was included in the council's adoption of the resolution.

City Manager Greg Scoles was encouraged by the public response to the resolution, which he felt confirmed the idea that this type of document could help members of the community feel included. Rather than propose significant changes to the city's policies, he said the statement confirmed the city's current practices.

"I would say that the council by developing a resolution is really codifying the way the city operates today," he said.

Councilman Doug Kim said he related to some of experiences with racism expressed at Tuesday's meeting as a child growing up in the Bay Area, but sensed an edge to some of the recent examples of racism observed by the community in recent weeks. He was hopeful the resolution would, at the very least, compel those who might have intolerant thoughts to think twice before they act on them.

"Words do matter and the extent this resolution can influence the way people think, fantastic," he said. "But even more than that, I think what this resolution says is ... 'if you have these thoughts, keep them to yourself and don't let them become action.'"

Mayor Charles Stone said he was moved by the outpouring of support for the resolution, which he called a living document the council could revisit in the future. He felt Tuesday's conversation rose above one's political affiliations, and instead focused on basic human rights.

"This is about human beings, and human rights, and how we're going to treat each other as human beings in Belmont," he said.

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