

PLP Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant Program

Please provide the following information in a Microsoft Word document. Please email the completed form to Wendy Cao at caow@plsinfo.org.

1. Title of Project Innovation Fest @ Alameda County Library

2. Category (A or B) A

3. Library applying for funding Alameda County Library

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4. Amount of funding \$15,000

1. One paragraph project summary.

The Innovation Fest at Alameda County Library will be eight hours of pure innovation: an internal library-oriented twist to Google's famous "20% time" model. The staff of the Alameda County Library will be empowered to work on the things that inspire them: anything from a better library card to a book cart art project, to an improved shelving process. Pacific Library Partnership members will be welcome to attend as partner-contributor to share insights and best practices from their own system while getting an unparalleled in-depth look at Alameda County's own practices. Learning seminars throughout the day of the Fest will provide a technology and knowledge framework for staff to use in their Innovation Fest projects. At the end of the Fest a judging panel of Library administration and PLP staff will award prizes to the most promising projects. The Innovation Fest seeks to be a catalyzing medium that will bring Alameda County Library staff together across branches, departments, and positions to come towards solutions together.

2. Explain how this project fits with the library's strategic directions.

The Innovation Fest directly fulfills four strategic goals of the Alameda County Library:

*Deliver excellent customer service throughout the organization
Identify barriers to optimal library experiences*

The internal facing, collaborative nature of the Innovation Fest encourages ideas that correspond with these strategic directions. The projects generated throughout the fest will be the barrier-breaking, service enhancing ideas that have been the basis of the Library's most successful programs.

Become a "technology curious" organization

The seminars built into the structure of the Innovation Fest will encourage “technological curiosity.” This will be done in two ways. Skill-Up Seminars will be dedicated towards raising staff’s comfort within technological areas they feel in need of improvement. These seminars will be defined around the findings of a pre-Fest Staff Technology Needs Assessment. Idea Workshops will build an “innovation framework” that will encourage out-of-the-box thinking such as fail-fast methodologies, rapid prototyping, and Google 10X philosophy.

Create partnerships and collaborations with community agencies, individuals, groups that help the library identify and respond to needs

A core goal of the Innovation Fest is to create a partner-contributor “ecosystem of ideas.” This will be achieved through proactively reaching out and inviting a wide range of interested parties to the Innovation Fest. Vendors, other county government agencies, and surrounding Pacific Library Partnership library systems will be invited to attend the Fest as partner-contributors. The Alameda County Library will continue to engage with these new partner-contributors in order to build new relationships and strengthen existing ones.

3. A description of the proposed project including the population served and the demographics of that population.

The Innovation Fest will be a day-long event held in the Spring of 2016. The population served by this project would be the staff of the Alameda County Library and the Pacific Library Partnership.

The PLP Grant will be used for Innovation Fest planning logistics, day-of backend logistics, and a post-Fest budget for the most promising Innovation Fest ideas. A quarter of the awarded grant will be spent on pre-event planning, particularly in hiring expert outside consultants to facilitate needs assessments such as a technological needs survey. Another quarter will go towards Innovation Fest logistics - classes, food truck meals and prizes. A full half of the grant ask is expressly devoted to the further development of winning Fest ideas. The Alameda County Library pledges an equivalent in-kind quantity of dedicated staff time as well as the exclusive use of its brand new San Lorenzo Library for the Innovation Fest.

4. Goals and objectives of the project.

Staff Empowerment & Connection

The Innovation Fest will be an opportunity for staff to express their ideas, but also a long-term tool to empower them. It will give every Alameda County Library staff member, from page to director, the chance to create and own an idea that will have real impact upon the entire library system.

Networking

The Fest’s idea ecosystem will build the personal connections that will lead to long term knowledge sharing and inter-system projects. Connections between Pacific Library Partnership

systems will form and strengthen. Outside stakeholders will come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Library operations.

System Improvements

The award-winning ideas generated by the Fair will be shepherded by a handpicked team of Alameda County Library staff. Every winning idea will be explored to the point of a minimally viable product, then carefully evaluated to determine the viability of further staff development and resource investment. It is also hoped that the Innovation Fest will be replicated throughout the Pacific Library Partnership system, thereby allowing the Fest to rotate location and strengthen each host system in turn.

5. Project timeline (activities).

| Activity | Time |
|--|--------------------------|
| Innovation Fest Planning Committee Forms | November - December 2015 |
| PLP - Technology Needs Assessment | February 2016 |
| Identify partnership opportunities | March 2016 |
| Market Innovation Fair | March 2016 - April 2016 |
| Innovation Fair | April 2016 |
| Evaluate Innovation Fair and Projects | May 2016 - November 2016 |
| Innovation Fair Final Report | December 2016 |

6. Evaluation of the project.

Each attendee will be invited to provide feedback via a TypeForm survey sent shortly after the Innovation Fest. The Innovation Fest Committee will be in close contact with Fest winners in the six months following the Fest. At the end of the six months the Committee will generate a retrospective report summarizing the effectiveness of the Innovation Fest.

7. Project budget.

| Item | Budget |
|--------------------|--------|
| Food and Snacks | \$1000 |
| Supplies | \$1000 |
| Marketing & Design | \$1000 |

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|---|----------|
| Innovation Fest Classes | \$3000 |
| Prizes | \$1000 |
| Winning Innovation Festival Projects Budget | \$8000 |
| In-Kind (staff time / facilities) | \$15,000 |