PLP Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant Program Application

Library Name: Monterey Public Library

Project Title: Learn, Play, and Create at Monterey Public Library

Select category you are applying under:

- [x] Category A: Innovation and Technology Opportunity Grant
- [ ] Category B: Grant Replication Program

If Category B is selected, enter the name of the grant you are replicating:

1. Please provide a one paragraph project summary.

The Monterey Public Library will activate one of our underutilized spaces to create an interactive space for our community to learn, play, and create. The library will add makerspace equipment and interactive gaming to expand the services that we can provide to our community. The library will work with our youth and teen populations to engage STEAM creativity.

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

The library is interjecting fun and energizing the experience of the community within the library. The library is working on upgrading the Children’s area with an Early Learning Hub grant, and focusing on Art & creation for our upcoming fundraising campaign. The library wants to be a place where people create through art, STEAM, and activities rather than passive learning.
3. Please provide a detailed description of the proposed project including the population served and the demographics of that population.

The library will work with our youth and young adult populations here in Monterey. Monterey has many young military families based on their 2+ year assignments at the Defense Language Institute and the Naval Postgraduate School. In addition, we have college populations from Middlebury, CSUMB, MPC; and a high school directly across the street. The Library will work with these groups that are often looking at creation and programs that allow them to engage with other young adults. Monterey is known as the “Language Capitol of the World” as we have students from all over attending these graduate programs.

4. What are the goals and objectives of the project?

The goal is to provide a community space for programming within the library that allows us to expand the types of programs we provide. Young adults in the area are often looking for a makerspace and activities that allow them to meet new people in the community.

We hope to expand the equipment that we offer so that we can provide a higher level of service to our Peninsula community.

We plan on re-opening one of our spaces that has been closed since the pandemic to a new, revitalized use that engages creativity and fun!

5. Please include your project timeline (include detail of activities).

First 60 days:
Identify working space and communicate with Board of Library Trustees
Order products under $4,999

December 2023 – staff training on equipment
January 2024 – open space for Public booking via LibCal
February 2024-ongoing: recruitment of volunteers and interns.
Reports submitted to PLP by June 30th, 2024

6. Please indicate how you will evaluate success of your project.

We will evaluate the project based on usage and booking of the equipment, as well as how we can engage new users. We would have users register for library cards, so an increase in library cards would also be noted.

User satisfaction, based on user surveys, would also be noted based on LibCal registrations.
7. Please detail your project budget. (Note: Indirect costs are not allowed).

$6,000 for an interactive gaming space for Children. This would be using Microsoft Azure Kinect and/or VR/XR technologies to use & explore physical movement connected to gaming.
$2,000 for makerspace equipment. This includes a CNC router and associated tools.
$2,000 for sewing machines and textile equipment. The library currently offers successful hand sewing programs, and this would expand our services.
$2,000 for hand tools for maker activities

8. Please indicate how the project will be sustained after the grant term is over.

The Library will work with our Monterey Public Library Friends & Foundation to find community partners that will sponsor consumables for projects. This will allow the library to offer programs at low or no cost to the user. The space will be identified for community use, and Library staff will partner with school interns (CSU Monterey Bay, Monterey Peninsula College, and/or Monterey High School) to assist in leading programs.

**Complete Only for Category B Grants:**

9. Explain what grant was selected to replicate and why.

10. If there are changes or enhancements to the original grant, including budgetary changes, please detail the changes and your rationale for making them.