

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Project Title:****Project Type: Equipment and Materials**

Anchorage - Mountain View Public Library

State Funding Requested: \$6,000**House District: 20 / J**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Media/Bestseller Books and Outdoor Reader-Board Sign to Post Community Events.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$6,000***There is no other funding needed**Explanation of Other Funds:**\$5,000 Media/Bestseller Books**\$1,000 Outdoor Reader-Board Sign to Post Community Events***Detailed Project Description and Justification:****PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This grant is sought as part of the Anchorage Library Renewal Initiative. The Anchorage Library REnewal Initiative was launched in 2006 to revitalize Anchorage Public Library operations, increase outreach to the community and create state-of-the-art facilities. At the launch of the Initiative, the Anchorage Public Library had operated on a flat or decreasing budget for many years, and had fallen behind in its facilities maintenance and acquisition of new materials and library equipment. Over \$14M was invested to build new facilities, upgrade technology and purchase new materials and equipment. With the 2009 financial crisis, the Municipality was forced to make budget cuts and the library lost its capacity to maintain a baseline investment in materials and equipment. This grant would help continue that investment in materials and equipment. This grant would help continue that investment until the Municipal budget recovers and prevent the Library from backtracking into previous inadequate levels.

Great libraries are a direct reflection on the strength and vitality of the community and we can all be proud of the investment our community is making in creating libraries that transform lives.

JUSTIFICATION

The Anchorage Public Library community plan was developed in 2009 to create long-term, community-supported vision for the future of the Library. Over 6,000 residents participated in the process and the final plan will shape the growth and direction of the Library for the next twenty years. The findings of the plan are unsettling -- in Alaska's boom and bust economy, the library has seen deep cuts during the difficult years, but little restoration during the good years. Compared to its peer libraries across the country, APL's budget for materials and equipment is grossly underfunded.

The community plan lays out long-term strategies to address Library funding; a state capital grant would address current funding disparities and prevent the library from falling even further behind its peers. This grant would have a tremendous

positive impact on the people of Anchorage.

Project Timeline:

2010 and until funds are spent.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Municipality of Anchorage

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Karen Keller
Address: 3600 Denali Street
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone Number: (907)343-2892
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



2010 State Capital Budget Request Anchorage Public Library (APL)

Project Description:

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Request:

Project	Amount	Purpose	
Chugiak-Eagle River	\$12,000	\$7,000 \$5,000	Media/bestseller books Additional furniture needed to fill new facility
Gerrish (Girdwood)	\$11,000	\$3,000 \$8,000	Media/bestseller books Additional book drop to keep up with increased circulation at new facility
Loussac	\$60,000	\$15,000 \$20,000 \$25,000	Bestseller books Media Shelving for new fiction materials
Mountain View	\$6,000	\$5,000 \$1,000	Media/bestseller books Outdoor reader-board sign to post community events
Muldoon	\$9,000	\$5,000 \$4,000	Media/bestseller books Additional book drop carts to keep up with increased circulation at new facility
Samson-Diamond	\$3,000	\$3,000	Media/bestseller books
Total	\$101,000	\$101,000	

Justification:

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Background:

The Anchorage Library Renewal Initiative was launched in 2006 to revitalize Anchorage Public Library operations, increase outreach to the community and create state-of-the-art facilities. Completed projects include newly renovated facilities in Girdwood, Muldoon, and Chugiak-Eagle River, a new computer lab and furniture for Samson-Diamond and wireless hotspots at all locations. The Mountain View Branch renovation will be complete by summer 2010. Future plans include a large scale renovation of the Z.J. Loussac Public Library (addressed separately in the MOA 2010 legislative request).

Matching Support:

Thanks to generous support from a municipal bond, state capital grants, federal funding and private support from foundations, businesses and individuals, over \$14M has been invested in the Library Renewal since 2006. The Anchorage Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library actively fundraise to sponsor programs, purchase materials and address capital needs throughout the year.



Statewide Services Provided by Alaska's Largest Public Library

Book Donation Program

- A book donation program is run in conjunction with the semi-annual book sales and provides donations to small and rural libraries all over the state. Notable donations include books to the McLaughlin Youth Center (300), Cook Inlet Pretrial Facility (175), Alaska Native Hospital (223 children's books for hospital waiting rooms), Student Government JobCorps in Palmer, Hooper Bay school library (after the village's fire in August 2006), Scammon Bay, Moose Pass, Chenega Bay, Whittier.

Program Assistance

- In 2007 the library leveraged its Big Read grant funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to assist schools and libraries around the state and in Anchorage. Anchorage Public Library (APL) distributed thousands of books in book group discussion kits (22 schools received book kits as well as libraries and reading groups).
- The Big Read reached communities all over the state—Barrow, Point Hope, Nome, Unalakleet, Eagle, Delta Junction, Bethel, Willow, Wasilla, Palmer, Eagle River, Girdwood, Homer, Naknek, Kodiak Haines, Juneau, Ketchikan, Thorne Bay, Craig and Hydaburg. We also funded special programs in Nome (Alaska State Writer John Straley presented four school and community programs) and Juneau (we funded an author event that was hosted by the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council). We engaged the services and supported professionals around the state (John Active from Bethel and June Pinnell-Stephens from Fairbanks) by hiring them for programs that were done in Anchorage.
- Four APL staff members also presented a session at the annual conference of the Alaska Library Association (Feb 2007 in Juneau) on one book/one community reading programs and partnering with APL for The Big Read.

Special Youth Services Services/Programs

- APL provides READ IT Storypackets for use in rural communities for children's programs. These are checked out regularly, e.g. Herman Hutchins Elementary School Library (Valdez), Cooper Landing Public Library, Kaktovik School Community Library, Wasilla & Palmer Public Libraries, Copper Valley Community Library (Glen Allyn).
- The Ready to Read Resource Center is a two phase grant funded through the Alaska State Library which focuses on resources for promoting early childhood literacy for youth ages birth to three. This grant has three primary components:
 - Lapsit Storypackets include 5 books, a related CD, and a puppet. Anticipated use includes interlibrary loan to libraries to increase the number of children's programs at libraries for youth under age 3.
 - Two projects will focus on serving childcare centers and rural libraries.

Statewide Services Provided by Alaska's Largest Public Library

- Ready to Read Tubs are filled with board books, paperbacks, a resource book and dvd for childcare providers and rural libraries lacking in these materials.
 - "Read to Me at Home Bag" sets will include book bags, each filled with 3 board books, to be checked out through childcare centers to their clients to encourage parents to read to their children at home.
- APL provides training for statewide childcare providers at the AEYEC conference and youth services staff member Jane Baird chairs the Young Reader's Choice committee, a statewide program. She also reviews youth materials for national periodicals.

Loussac Library Facility Hosts Statewide Functions

- Houses the Alaska Collection, a repository for significant statewide historical documents.
- Serves as a meeting place for Federal hearings- Congressional and agency hearings are held in the Assembly Chambers and Wilda Marston Theater on a regular basis.
- Cultivates civic involvement- the Loussac Library is a site for voter registration and municipal, state and federal elections. The Anchorage Caucus constituent meetings also take place here.

Interlibrary Loan and Research Assistance

- The Anchorage Public Library lent out nearly 4,000 items from our collection last year through the Interlibrary Loan program, which allows Alaskan libraries from all over the state to request books and media materials.
- Through its 800# service, APL provides items by request as well as reference and research assistance to smaller libraries in the state. Many of these largely-rural libraries are operated by volunteers and are lacking in technology, so APL's professional librarians provide help at no cost to those libraries. Last year, APL processed over 2000 800# requests.
- APL has provided training to over 60 librarians from small schools around the state on how to use the 800 number services so they know how to request items and utilize the collections of the Anchorage Public Library. This training is provided by the Anchorage Public Library Interlibrary Loan Section.
- APL assists the AK State Library in their *Library Boot Camp* training for small libraries. The program, offered several times a year, explains services available and teaches small library staff how to utilize ILL and APL's collections.
- APL has been approved by the State to have financial responsibility contracts (signed by the administration in small schools) to provide direct assistance to teachers in schools that do not have library aides so teachers can call APL directly to borrow items from our collection. These contracts have also been arranged with village libraries.

Anchorage Public Library
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