

# Part 1: Basic Information

## Project Information

Project Title: "Friendly Service in the Friendly City"

### Project Summary:

The proposed infrastructure improvement project will remove remaining barriers to accessibility, featuring universal accessible design so that all library programs, services, and activities comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Improvements include additional accessible parking, improved access ramps and interior routes, and a new passenger loading zone. **In addition, the proposal addresses energy efficiencies including solar panels and an emergency backup generator to provide continuity of services during power outages.**

Requested Grant Amount : \$234,449

## Library Information

Library Jurisdiction: HUMBOLDT COUNTY LIBRARY

Name of Library Facility: Fortuna Library

Facility Street Address 1: 753 14<sup>th</sup> Street

City: Fortuna

State: California

Zip Code: 95540

Is the facility leased?: No

Project Contact

Person able to answer questions about this application or project.

Name: Merritt Perry?

Title: City Manager

Email Address:

Phone Number:

# Part 2: Project Detail & Implementation

## Detailed Project Information

### **Project Description:**

**Project Status:** Pre-planning

**Please tell us more about your project, how you plan to implement it, and the impact it will have.**

The proposed remodel of the Fortuna Branch of the Humboldt County Library will involve the redesign and remodel of the existing library footprint and interior amenities so that the library is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and has a contemporary aesthetic to promote the comfort of library patrons.

The current Fortuna Branch location has numerous barriers to access as defined under the ADA which includes barriers in the path of travel linking the facility to the public right of way, the circulation desk, restrooms, kitchen, offices, and the overall facility layout. The proposed project will completely redesign the facility featuring universal accessible design so that all programs, services, and activities offered are in compliance with Title II of the ADA.

The project also proposes the replacement of the existing non-efficient heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) unit with a modern efficient system, replacement of the existing single paned windows with new dual paned windows, an emergency back-up generator so that the library can remain open during power loss events, installation of photovoltaic panels to provide green energy and assist in offsetting facility energy needs, and the installation of a Tesla power wall for power back up.

The proposed redesign addresses community needs by providing an expanded teen room, efficient technology and study areas, improved paths of travel, and dynamic event space. The Fortuna Library is dedicated to providing an accessible and contemporary environment that meets the diverse needs of the growing community. The current library layout has several limitations, including insufficient space for study and technology use, a lack of easily utilized event space, and an inadequate footprint for teen and Spanish language materials. In addition to removing accessibility barriers, the proposed project addresses these limitations so that the library will be better equipped to offer the programs, materials and services needed to provide essential services to all members of the community.

**List and describe the roles of all consultants involved in this project such as planning, construction, contractors, and project management. If not yet contracted, briefly detail your plan and timeline to solicit and select consultants.**

Currently City of Fortuna and County of Humboldt staff have contracted with Whitchurch Engineering of Fortuna, CA to conduct preliminary design and construction cost estimates for the purpose of submitting this project for grant consideration. If the project grant is awarded, the County, through its ADA Compliance Team will contract with an architectural firm specializing in accessible design for project

design and construction management services. Once construction designs and specifications have been approved and permitted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), the project will be placed out to public bid following the requirements outlined in California Public Contract Code, Div. 2, Part 3- 'Contracting by Local Agencies'. Once bids have been received and a low bidder is announced, the project will go before the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for approval and a construction contract will be awarded to the lowest qualified and responsible bidder. Upon execution of a construction agreement as well as county receipt of all required payment and performance bonds and required insurance endorsements, a notice to proceed will be issued to the contractor and construction will commence. Staff anticipates this project taking approximately six months to complete. Upon substantial completion, the AHJ will inspect the completed work to ensure full compliance with applicable building codes and regulations. A Certified Access Specialist will conduct a post construction site survey to ensure that all ADA access barriers have been remediated and that the facility is fully accessible and meets the requirements set forth under the ADA.

**Briefly describe past relevant capital improvements to the facility, including year completed.**

In 1987, the City of Fortuna built a 1,600 square addition to this facility. Some of the upgrades included additional shelving for books, magazines, movies, audiobooks, and music, an adult reading area with lounge seating, a reference reading area, a children's reading and study area, an expanded circulation/information desk with a work area, a work room to check in and process materials, and restrooms with better accessibility.

In 2005, the City of Fortuna converted a small office into the Library's Teenzone. This project entailed transforming an office into a space specifically designed to appeal to teens. Design and creation of the space was done in collaboration with the City of Fortuna's Parks and Recreation department, with input from the library's teen advisory group. This collaborative approach allowed the library to expand the teen collection and create a space where teens felt welcome, included, and engaged at the library. The success of this project has demonstrated the value of a collaborative, responsive approach to library design, and inspired plans for much needed updates throughout the facility.

**How will your project address conditions that negatively impact your library's ability to deliver needed services?**

This project will feature universal accessible design which will allow the library to offer all programs, services, and activities to all members of the community regardless of their ability. Currently, limited space and accessibility barriers prevent the library from serving the community in an inclusive, responsive manner. An increased area for study and technology use would allow for additional ADA compliant computer workstations and study tables. This is necessary for patrons to access the internet, utilize library databases, and participate in workforce activities such as completing online trainings and applying for jobs, and would also enable the library to facilitate technology programs and classes. Currently, both study tables and computer stations are cramped with frequently utilized bookshelves nearby. Similarly, the only large space for events competes with the children's area of the library and requires heavy furniture to be moved in order to make room for programs. The current teen area has also outgrown its current footprint. It lacks space for accessible tables and seating, leaving teen patrons with no dedicated space to engage with library materials or programs.

**Describe how your project contributes to: sustainability, inclusive access, and/or the ability of the facility to adapt to evolving needs.**

The proposed project will eliminate barriers to access as defined under the ADA. This promotes inclusive access to patrons for all library programs, services, and activities regardless of their physical ability.

The project will be constructed under current California Building Code and will feature upgrades to lighting systems that replace outdated fixtures with newer energy saving technologies. The overall facility energy footprint will decrease as a result of this project.

The Fortuna Library is committed to fulfilling its role as an inclusive community convener, where patrons can access information, utilize resources, and enjoy relevant, educational, and enriching programs. The existing configuration of the library limits the full potential of what can be offered. The needs of the community continually evolve, and the Fortuna Library has consistently taken a responsive approach to adapting to best serve patrons. The Rose Perenin Foundation has been a key contributor in providing funding for extended hours to provide dynamic programming, revenue for a LatinX Outreach Coordinator to provide support and connection to the library's community's Spanish-speaking/English-Language learning community, and support for library databases and materials. With an increasing number of senior citizens, young families, and Spanish speaking residents, it is critical that the library includes space for programs, services, and materials to meet a wide variety of needs. This includes space for early literacy programs and story times, guest lecturers, cultural events, workforce development programs, Spanish language and English language learning programs, and technology classes. Removing barriers, increasing the efficiency of the floorplan, and applying universal acceptable design will allow the library to continue to grow its offerings and support the community through responsive and dynamic programming for patrons of all ages and abilities.

## Project Implementation

Please use the Project Implementation Form to outline the steps you will take to implement your project, including approximate start and end dates. The Project Implementation template can be found online: <https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/buildingforward>

Upload Project Implementation Form: [building-forward-project-implementation-plan - Eureka Branch.docx](#)

## Supporting Documentation

This is your opportunity to show us what the project is and why it is needed. This may include photos, video, reports, planning documents, etc. No more than 3 supporting documents will be accepted.

File upload:

File upload:

# Part 3: Budget & Funding

**Total Project Budget (including grant, match, and additional funding):** \$360,000

## Project Budget

Please outline your project's budget by category and line item. The Project Budget template can be found online: <https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/buildingforward>

### Upload Budget Form:

**Describe the basic elements of the budget, how the budget was created, and the methodology for any project contingency.**

The project budget is based upon estimates provided by Whitchurch Engineering of Fortuna, CA who was contracted to conduct preliminary design and construction cost estimates for the purpose of submitting this project for grant consideration. Whitchurch used the "2017 San Francisco Cost Schedule" for the basis of their estimate and applied a 15% increase to adjust for inflation. It should be noted that the proposed project is in an early conceptual stage and as a result, the budget is both preliminary and conservative. In keeping with the early stage of the project, we have set contingencies at the maximum amount allowed by the grant opportunity. County of Humboldt facilities are unfortunately in generally poor condition and unforeseen conditions frequently impact our construction projects.

## Project Funding

**Funding from Other Sources:** \$108,452

**Has funding from all other sources been secured?** : Yes

**List other project funding sources, including any sources and amounts for matching funds and any related requirements to obtaining funds:** Humboldt County Library fund balance \$108,452.

## Funding Background

**If applicable, describe past attempts to fund this project, including other funding sources sought and key obstacles to secure funds.**

To date, no other attempts to fund this project have been made. This project is one of many Americans with Disabilities Act projects that are vying for limited county funds to remediate barriers to access at county facilities. The county has well over 100 facilities with barriers to

access as defined under the ADA which are estimated to cost approximately \$48 million dollars to remediate over the course of the next 20 years.

**If grant funding is not approved, or if only a portion of the requested funding for the project is awarded, explain how the project will be completed.**

With no funding, the County would be left to prioritize the available match funding towards remediation of the most critical ADA barriers to access in the facility and all other proposed technology modernization and facility renovation scoping will be placed on hold until a time that funding is available.

## Part 4: Match Requirement

### Match

**Are you able to match grant funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis? : Yes**

*Other State funds are not an allowable match contribution*

### Availability of Match Funds

A letter from Finance Director or equivalent verifying availability match funds is optional at the time this application is submitted. A letter will be required if grant funds are awarded.

Letter confirming the availability match funds (optional):

# Part 5: Certification

## Certification and Signature

**This application is being submitted by the eligible applicant organization that will administer grant funds if awarded. The authorized representative is the person designated by the applicant organization's governing body to enter into agreements on behalf of the applicant organization. The authorized representative must certify this application before it is submitted. By typing your name below, you are signing this application electronically. You agree that the information submitted on this application is correct and true. Your electronic signature is the legal equivalent of your manual signature on this application.**

Name of Authorized Representative:

Title of Authorized Representative:

Signature:

## Authorizing Resolution

A signed resolution by your organization's governing body designating an authorized representative and approving acceptance of grant funds is optional at the time this application is submitted. A resolution will be required if grant funds are awarded. Suggested resolution language can be found in the Building Forward grant guidelines available online at: <https://www.library.ca.gov/grants/buildingforward>. If the signed resolution is available now, you may upload it here.

Authorizing Resolution (if available):