

Barona Cultural Center & Museum, NAG-ENHANCEMENT-FY22

NARRATIVE

Project Justification

Barona Cultural Center and Museum is seeking \$38,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide assistance with wages for Museum staff to keep the Library open two days per week, supplies to assist with collections preservation and circulation, new titles for circulation, and travel to IMLS-designated meetings.

Which program goal and associated objective(s) of the Native American Library Services Enhancement Grants program will your project address (see Section A2)?

This project will address:

Goal 2: Improve educational programs related to specific topics and content areas of interest to library patrons and community-based users.

Objective 2.1: Support the identification of the needs and interests of learners.

Objective 2.2: Support the development and implementation of classes, events, teaching tools, resources, and other educational services.

Objective 2.3: Support the evaluative assessment of library-based approaches to teaching and facilitation.

What need, problem, or challenge will your project address and how was it identified? Describe how you have used demographic information, economic circumstances, condition assessments, and other relevant data from reliable sources to define the need, problem, or challenge and develop the scope for the project.

Barona Band of Mission Indians' Barona Cultural Center & Museum manages the Joan Phoenix Library. The Library contains two separate collections and foci. First, there is a circulating library for the Barona Indian Charter School students located adjacent to the Museum and Library, and community members of all ages. The circulating library has nearly 10,000 titles, both fiction and non-fiction, with a good percentage of the collection emphasizing Native culture. In past surveys, we identified the need to build Native-themed collections. Second, the Museum's Research Library was recently added to the Joan Phoenix Library, centralizing research materials in one location, and is a non-circulating collection of mostly non-fiction titles of Native American history, culture, and art, with an emphasis on Kumeyaay cultural and historical material. This collection is widely used by researchers, Barona members, and staff. This collection contains nearly 3,000 titles.

In years past, Barona Band of Mission Indians has applied for and been granted the IMLS Basic Library Grant to pay for library supplies, new titles, Libby offerings, and program supplies, but there was no additional funding from the Museum's budget. The Library was only open very minimally and the Museum absorbed the cost of staff time. Staff were all cross-trained to assist in the Library as needed.

However, during the pandemic, the Library immediately became an essential service for our community and students but reservation-wide, department budgets were slashed and initially, the Museum lost all but one staff member. Our Director, as the sole Museum employee, single-handedly kept the Library operational for our community. There was increased demand for services by the Charter School--they separated combination classes to reduce class sizes and increase physical space between students; therefore, instead of 6 classes visiting for a half-hour each week, there were 9 classes visiting for an hour. They also requested read-a-loud sessions from staff for each class. Time spent serving students increased from about 4-5 hours including preparatory work per week to about 12 hours per week. Our Director continued to keep regularly-scheduled hours to service the Community after the school day ended and continued to provide multi-lingual library story time and book check outs to the Barona Tribal Preschool students. The Library was kept open for summer school students, and provided a story and craft hour weekly for the children attending Barona's Recreation Department's Summer Camp. Coming out of the pandemic, now, the exceptional services that our Director provided must continue, and we have been able to bring back two more staff members to assist with these responsibilities.

Now that we are moving towards normal at the Museum, filling positions, and providing more services, and there is no line item for Library services in this year's lean budget, we are not able to cover the expansion in growth the Library saw during the pandemic during this next fiscal year. This year is transitional in that we are revising our priorities and look to a better 2024, but the only way we can keep the Library prioritized this year, is with grant support that will mandate staff time and money be given to the Library.

Funds provided by this grant will pay for the staff time needed to keep the Library open and accessible. Remaining funds will be used to continue to build our library collection with a focus on books for Kindergarten through Eighth grade as well as supplies needed for circulation and preservation. We have been successful at meeting the needs of students reading at grade level, but the pandemic has brought forth a greater number of struggling readers. This year we will specifically seek books, which contain more mature content but a lower Lexile to support struggling readers and aid our advanced readers with increasing the number of titles that meet their interests but are also challenging and age-appropriate. We plan to continue to grow our Native American collection of fiction and non-fiction books, which are preferred by most adult community members. We will promote the Libby App and continue our subscription to e-books and audio books available to adult community members. We will continue to find books and resources to use for multi-lingual library programming. Funds will also go toward purchasing supplies needed for circulating the books and collections preservation as well as travel to IMLS-designated meetings.

Who is the target group for your project and how have they been involved in the planning? "Target group" refers to those who will be most immediately and positively affected by your project. Be specific by identifying particular age groups, community members with particular needs, and/or other types of target audiences. Identify the number of individuals in the target group or in each target group, if you identify more than one.

Museum staff work closely with the teachers and administrators at the Charter School, to provide quality services for the students while promoting the mission of the Library, the Museum, and the goal of Barona Band of Mission Indians. Essentially a school library for 8 hours a week, the Library supports the needs of the students by providing books that appeal to their interests and reading levels. In addition, the Joan Phoenix Library serves the students of the Barona Preschool. They receive a weekly story time and learn words in *‘Tipay Aa* (Kumeyaay language). The Library is also open to all community members during regularly scheduled hours and the Library will be open to summer school students and children attending the Summer Camp through the Recreation Department.

There are generally 110 students enrolled at the Charter School in grades from Kindergarten through Eighth; 25 students enrolled in Barona Preschool, aged 3-5 years old; and over 500 Barona Members of all ages. Researchers who use the Research Library largely come from San Diego County, and usually are graduate students at one of the many colleges in San Diego.

Museum/Library staff maintain an excellent relationship with the other departments on the Reservation and often work together for the good of all departments. This close relationship allows our partner colleagues to both make requests and offer advice on services and collections materials for the two collections in the Library.

Who are the ultimate beneficiaries for this project? “Beneficiaries” refers to those who are likely to be aided in the long-term by your project. They may or may not be the same as your “target group.” Identify the number of individuals who will benefit from your project in the long term, if reliable and defensible counts are possible. Otherwise describe the characteristics of the beneficiaries you expect to be served eventually by your project.

The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are the same as the Target Group, above: Barona community members, Barona Indian Charter School students, Barona Preschoolers, and researchers.

Project Work Plan

What specific activities will you carry out and in what sequence? What are the risks to the project and how will you mitigate them?

Activity 1: Provide Museum staff to open Joan Phoenix Library for school needs and regularly scheduled hours for Barona community & programming for a total of 16 hours/week. The risk to the project is low. Now that there are more cross-trained staff members available, as long as there is funding to cover the time, the Library will be open and accessible. Our Project Director will arrange the staffing schedule and ensure coverage.

Activity 2: Purchase books, supplies, preservation, circulation, and access needs. The risk to this is low—the Project Director will work with Museum staff to purchase needed materials, track the budget, and prioritize work flow.

Activity 3: Travel to IMLS-designated meetings. There are low risks to this activity although a COVID surge may limit travel and in that case, we hope that meetings will go virtual.

Who will plan, implement, and manage your project?

Laurie Egan-Hedley, Director/Curator of Barona Museum will plan, implement, and manage our project as Project Director. She has worked for Barona Museum for 13 years and has experience managing staff and grant-funded projects. Additionally, she has established rapport with the community and students who use the Library.

What time, financial, personnel, and other resources will you need to carry out the activities?

Barona Band of Mission Indians respectfully requests \$30,000 in wages to help pay for salaries of Laurie Egan-Hedley, Director/Curator; Therese Chung, Collections Manager; and Jennifer Stone, Assistant Curator, to keep the library open minimally 16 hours a week for 1 year; \$5,000 for books, supplies, preservation, circulation, access needs; \$3,000 for travel to IMLS-designated meetings. If this request is funded, the Library will be open and accessible to the community!

How and with whom will you share your work's general findings lessons learned?

Barona Band of Mission Indians hopes that staffing of the Library will ultimately be sustained through the Museum's operating budget. To support this goal, project staff will provide and share feedback about lessons learned and usage statistics of library services with the Museum Advisory Committee and Tribal Council as we begin strategic and budget planning for 2024.

Project Results

What are your project's intended results and how will they address the need, problem, or challenge you have identified?

With staff funding, the Library will be open and accessible, and we anticipate increased use overall of the library and a continuation of services which have been relied upon during the COVID pandemic. We envision increased circulation of our books and our e-book/audio books. We hope to continue adding titles and increase usage of the program. We also anticipate increased use of physical books and will track those statistics in our library management system.

How will the knowledge, skills, behaviors, capabilities, and/or attitudes of the group change as a result of your project?

Literacy will continue to improve in our community, especially among the students of the Charter School who are the main users of our library. By providing the books and services that are requested of our library, our site will continue to be a warm, welcoming place that encourages the love of reading and support the community's cultural needs as an extension of the Museum.

What tangible products will result from your project?

Tangible products include consistent staffing of the Library for patron needs, programming, and research requests; new titles for circulation; purchased supplies allowing for book repair and preservation; increased knowledge by staff who attend IMLS-designated meetings.

How will you sustain the benefit(s) of your project target beyond the conclusion of the period of performance Section E1 ?

We will sustain the benefits of our project by continuing to seek funding to keep the Joan Phoenix Library staffed and the collection growing and accessible to the community, students, and researchers.

NAG-ENHANCEMENT-FY22 - Schedule of Completion - Barona Band of Mission Indians

| | Sept. 2022 | Oct.2 022 | Nov. 2022 | Dec. 2022 | Jan. 2023 | Feb. 2023 | Mar. 2023 | April 2023 | May 2023 | June 2023 | July 2023 | Aug. 2023 |
|---|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Staff Joan Phoenix Library and Research Library for a total of 16 hours/week | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Purchase books, supplies, preservation, circulation, access needs. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Attend IMLS-designated meeting | unknown when they will be, but will be prepared to attend | | | | | | | | | | | |