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Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover

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Library Renovations are More than Meets the Eye



It may appear as if nothing is happening at 440 W Sierra Madre Boulevard. Peeking through the construction fence shows a glimpse of dirt, some heavy equipment, and the mid-century design building still intact. However, it is what's happening on the inside that counts. While keeping the outer shell of the Library, the interior has been stripped down to the studs, but will soon be built back up better than ever!



The Sierra Madre Public Library received \$10,669,210 in state and federal grant funding to accommodate a 5,000 square foot expansion, ADA and seismic upgrades, improved green space, new HVAC, new electrical, new plumbing, asbestos abatement, window replacement, and the addition of fire suppression equipment. With rising costs over the last few years, grant funding did not cover the total cost of renovating the Library. The City of Sierra Madre decided to allocate \$1.8 Million from the city's reserve funds to ensure the Library Meaningful Improvement Project could proceed with construction.

The \$12,499,210 available for the renovation's design and construction portions does not cover the furniture, fixtures, and equipment (FF&E) needed for the interior of the building. Thankfully, local non-profit organizations and the community itself have stepped in to help.

In June 2023, the Friends of the Sierra Madre Library pledged \$400,000 from the Mary Tumilty fund, \$145,000 from the Partners' fund and \$150,000 from their general fund to go toward FF&E costs.

Starting our interior fundraising with \$695,000, what a wonderful way to start! The Sierra Madre Historical Preservation Society has donated proceeds from programs to support the library's FF&E goals. In addition, to the generous pledge from the Friends of the Library and sponsored programs from the Historical Preservation Society, Robert S. Day created a trust for the Library. Effective January 2020, the Library receives \$25,000 per year for capital or operating costs. To date, the trust has grown to \$125,000, which the Library intends to use for FF&E needs. This brings the starting total to \$820,000 for purchasing all interior needs like desks, tables, chairs, computers, shelves, and more.

The Sierra Madre Library Foundation continues to work steadfastly to raise more funds for the library's furniture, fixtures, and equipment. The Library Foundation is helping to provide our community with a 21st Century library that will be a vital space for civic engagement for generations to come.



City of Sierra Madre Library

02/20/20

For more information on the renovation and/or to stay up-to-date on new developments, visit the Library Renovation Transparency page:

https://www.sierramadeca.gov/cityhall/city_manager_s_office/transparency/library_survey





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