



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: June 13, 2016

Board Meeting Date: June 28, 2016

Special Notice / Hearing: None

Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John L. Maltbie, County Manager

Subject: Measure A: Letter of Interest to support the East Palo Alto Library exploring a potential partnership with the Youth Arts & Music Center.

RECOMMENDATION:

Measure A: Adopt a resolution authorizing the President of the Board of Supervisors to execute a Letter of Interest on behalf of the County of San Mateo supporting the East Palo Alto Library's exploration of a potential partnership with the Youth Arts & Music Center to develop a library on the property owned by the John & Marcia Goldman Foundation at Bay Road and Pulgas Avenue in East Palo Alto.

BACKGROUND:

The East Palo Alto Library is a member of the San Mateo County Libraries Joint Powers Authority (Library JPA). The library currently occupies 8,356 square feet on the first floor of the County building located at 2415 University Avenue in East Palo Alto. Over 170,000 people visit the East Palo Alto Library annually and over 62% of the residents have a library card. According to library best practices, a community the size of East Palo Alto should typically have a library of 20,000 to 26,000 square feet in size, which is significantly larger than the current facility.

Over the past three years, the Library JPA has been exploring interior remodeling options and has looked into ways to expand the East Palo Alto facility. Your Board has approved \$1.25 million in **Measure A** funds for this project and the Library JPA has added \$750,000, for a total of \$2 million. The Library JPA retained Fog Studio to study remodeling and expansion options. However, after significant analysis, the consultants determined that there is insufficient space for expansion at the current location and incremental improvements would not warrant the cost. The consultants also confirmed that the library needs additional space to meet the community needs.

The John & Marcia Goldman Foundation is developing a Youth Arts and Music Center (YA&MC) in East Palo Alto. The Foundation has purchased a three acre parcel at the

southeast corner of Bay Road and Pulgas Avenue for their new facility. Multiple community design exercises have been held and a pre-development plan for the facility is expected to be submitted soon. Through conversations with the YA&MC team, we have learned that the YA&MC will not require development of all three acres. The Foundation is considering partners to occupy about an acre of the site and potentially share parking and possibly other components of their facility.

DISCUSSION:

On May 25, 2016, East Palo Alto's Mayor Rutherford, Council Member Romero and City Manager Martinez met with Supervisor Slocum, County Library Director Anne-Marie Despain and Deputy County Manager Peggy Jensen to discuss the merits of a joint library development project with the YA&MC. The meeting participants agreed that there is great synergy in locating a new city library on the YA&MC campus. The group further agreed that the next step in pursuing a partnership would be sending a letter of interest in a collaboration to the Goldman Foundation that was signed by the City, Library JPA and the County.

A copy of the letter, which was approved by the East Palo Alto City Council on June 8, 2016 and was signed on June 13, 2016 by Supervisor Carole Groom, Chair of the Library JPA Governing Board, is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no cost associated with submitting the proposed letter of interest.