



## \$6.3 Million in Grants to Strengthen California Public Libraries

### Local Libraries Receive Funds for Innovative Community Projects

**For Immediate Release: August 10, 2021**

Contact: Alex Vassar

(916) 904-2739

[press@library.ca.gov](mailto:press@library.ca.gov)

**[Sacramento, Calif.]** The California State Library today announced the award of 33 grants totaling \$6.3 million to support innovative programs proposed by local public libraries to better serve their communities.

These grants benefit all Californians, from those who're too young for pre-school to those in post-retirement, as well as expand access to library services to underserved populations, and teach community members how to preserve local historical and family documents.

The 33 projects are paid for with funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. The State Library received 39 applications requesting more than \$7.4 million in funds.

"Responding to the needs and expectations of the communities they serve is what libraries do better than any other government entity," said State Librarian Greg Lucas. "It's always inspiring to see the creativity local libraries show in doing that."

The following are examples of funded projects:

- Monterey County Free Libraries' "MORE: Materials, Options and Resources for Everyone" project provides older adults with improved access to adaptive services, materials, and instruction at their local branch library. This includes a local connection to statewide services and materials for those with visual, hearing, or learning disabilities.
- Sacramento Public Library's "Creating a Statewide Adult New Reader Collection" will produce 120 photo books to help libraries and literacy programs provide high-quality fiction and nonfiction reading materials for patrons and adult learners.

- Sonoma State University’s “Tinker Days” project provides a free, two-week STEM makerspace summer academy for middle-school students. Through four-day workshops (“Tinker Days”) held during winter, spring, and summer breaks at Sonoma State and with focused recruiting efforts from majority Hispanic and low-income school districts in Sonoma County, Tinker Days is designed to create new opportunities for access to STEM extracurricular learning experiences.
- Moreno Valley Public Library’s “MoVal Stories” will create a digital archive of stories and family histories from Moreno Valley residents. The program also will build an archive of local history documents that reflect the city’s growth in size and cultural diversity. Adults and teens will learn to use scanning, audio recording, and videography equipment to digitize family records and film or record oral histories of family members and community pillars.

More information about upcoming [grant opportunities](#) can be found on the State Library website.

# END RELEASE TEXT #

**About the State Library:** Founded in 1850, the California State Library has an extensive collection of art, books, diaries, maps, newspapers, periodicals, photographs and posters from throughout California’s rich history. The State Library is also California state government’s information hub and holds federal and state publications, is home to the Bernard E. Witkin State Law Library and the Braille and Talking Book Library, and serves as the lead state agency for library-related services throughout California. [State Library website](#)

These projects were made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. IMLS advances, supports, and empowers America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development.