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## INTRODUCING THE COMMONS

### A New Modern Library for Larkspur and Neighboring Communities

The Commons is the 2.4 acre City-owned property at Doherty Drive and Rose Lane that will include a modern Library, Public Square and Community Center, to be built in three phases.

*Imagine a place where...*

- *A young parent is able to park close to the library and have easy access with a stroller.*
- *A teen is tutored and does homework after school.*
- *An entrepreneur can work and potentially create companies and new jobs for Marin.*
- *An older adult or people with mobility issues can have easy ADA-compliant access to the building using a walker or wheel chair.*

Located on a beautiful piece of land with iconic views of Mt. Tam, the new library together with the Lark Theater, will bookend a new cultural corridor for Larkspur. This area is accessible to thousands of students in nearby schools.

Features of our new modern library:

- Fully accessible ADA facility
- Adjacent parking
- All required safety features: seismic and fire
- Sustainable design and green infrastructure
- Integration of technology and physical media and programs
- Quiet and public spaces
- Supports individual and community activities
- Supports different generational requirements
- Flexibility to meet future opportunities



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## Our Modern Library



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*The library is being reinvented in response to an explosion of information and knowledge... new technology and changing needs... Who knows where the emerging new commons will take us?*

- Bill Moyers, *The Public Library*, by Robert Dawson

The Commons Library will integrate indoor and outside spaces with flexible configurations so it can adapt quickly to the demand at different times of the day and provide space for a variety of programs.

The Modern Library Program & Facility Potential			
Permanent Collection	Toddler Story Time	Senior Programs	Indoor & Outdoor Meeting Spaces
MarinNet Access to Additional Collections	Children’s Library & Story Time	Materials & Devices for Hearing & Eyesight Impaired	Digital Access: Laptops, Hotspots, & Free WiFi
Multi-Language Materials	Teen Center	Historical Society & Displays	Tech Center & Classes
Multi-Cultural Programs	After School Study Hall & Tutoring	Art & Culture Lectures & Displays	Cooling Station for Summer Heat Waves
Professional Librarian Assistance	Quiet Space for Reading	Small Group Activities	Entrepreneur Workspaces

The open floor plan, with large doors and windows that open for air flow, will have movable book stacks. It will accommodate study groups, reading programs and popular story time for kids and technology training workshops for older adults. It will offer expanded digital access and services plus virtual and in-person workshops. There is space and resources for all age groups to enjoy in the day and evening.



## PHASING STRATEGY

Today's plan enables future growth. A core library facility can be built quickly, and can later be expanded to include additional meeting spaces, a public square and a community center. This project will be constructed by the City using a bid-build basis to control costs. Today's estimates are based on historic cost models for similar buildings and stated in today's dollars.



### Modern Library - \$5M

- 5,000 sq ft modern library
- Parking for 15 cars and screening hedge
- Ramada (2,000 sq ft) providing shaded seating
- Required safety features for seismic and fire
- Modern California Mission style
- Fenced children's patio (1,250 sq ft)
- Outdoor seating and shade structures
- Views of Mt. Tam
- Bicycle parking
- Sustainable design and green infrastructure

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### Library Expansion - \$5M

This phase completes the library, adds the public square and increases parking.

- Adds 5,000 sq ft to the phase 1 Library for a total of 10,000 sq ft
- Expanded library space and meeting rooms
- Public Square
- Tower
- Vehicle turn around
- Increases parking to 40 spaces



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### Community Center - \$10M

- Adds a 10,000 sq ft facility
- Auditoriums that can be divided into smaller meeting rooms
- Supports Parks and Recreation programming
- Cultural events, exhibits
- Historical archive and displays
- Increases parking to 60 spaces

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**The Commons Foundation** is a citizen-led 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that is leading this fundraising initiative. Our charter is to fund, build with the City and sustain the new library. Our Board and Champions are dedicated to using this once in a generation opportunity to transform Larkspur and the lower Ross Valley.

#### **Board Members and Champions**

Joe Jennings, Board President  
Terry Berkemeier, Board Member  
Jon Ellenzweig, Board Member, Treasurer  
Jeanne Friedel, Board Member

Katherine Green, Board Member, Secretary  
Chris Hartzell, Board Member  
Cindy Winship, Board Member

**Champions:** Kristi Ellenzweig, Lori Lerner, Sally Bertuccelli-McDonough, Mimi Sardou

**Ambassadors:** Barbara Friday, Gabriel Gesmer, Jeff Gunderson, Dyan Pike

**Fundraising Counsel:** Serena D'Arcy-Fisher

#### **Endorsing and Supporting Organizations**

Larkspur City Council, The Library Board of Trustees, Larkspur Parks and Recreation Commission  
Friends of the Larkspur Library, Larkspur Library Foundation, Larkspur Community Foundation

#### **How you can help!**

It takes community participation and financial support to build and sustain our new library. The City owns the land and has committed to building and operating the new library. In February of 2022, the city is applying for a State matching grant to build the library on Rose Lane, so every dollar donated to TCF now will count toward the grant. We want the City to be able to build the best library it can afford for the community. We need your support to bring this transformative project to fruition. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Pledges can be paid over several years. Naming opportunities are available.

You are invited to schedule a presentation via Zoom about the proposed new library and the vision for The Commons. Please also consider including The Commons Foundation in your estate planning so you can have an impact beyond your life time. We welcome your queries. Please contact: [info@thecommonsatlarkspur.org](mailto:info@thecommonsatlarkspur.org) and visit our website for details. This is an exciting opportunity for community engagement in a vital community asset. Together we can create something unique that will have a profound impact on our community life and benefit generations to come.

**We welcome your participation and look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!**

