

MARINSCOPE

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THE WEEK OF JANUARY 12, 2022



A rendering of the proposed new public library in Larkspur, above. Fundraising received a big boost to start 2022.

Library gets a big boost

The Commons Foundation, a non-profit with a charter to raise funds to build a new public library in Larkspur, announced last week the receipt of a \$1 million challenge from Larkspur residents Lori Lerner and Terry Berkemeier.

The Lerner-Berkemeier Challenge matches new major gift contributions of \$50,000 or more to TCF throughout 2022. If fully matched, the challenge has the potential to bring library fundraising to 80% of its Phase 1 goal.

Funds matched before Feb. 15, will be included in the City of Larkspur state library grant application, and could be doubled again.

With a goal of raising \$2 million in new donations for the TCF Capital Campaign in 2022, the Lerner-Berkemeier Challenge offers the campaign a significant boost. “We strongly believe in the importance of funding and building the best new modern library possible,” said Lori Lerner. “We hope our challenge will encourage others to support this important community project.”

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— Joe Jennings

Gifts or pledges received prior to the City’s state matching grant application on Feb. 15, could be doubled again if the state grant for libraries is awarded. “We appreciate Lori and Terry’s generosity and the unique timing relative to the state matching grant opportunity,” said Joe Jennings, President, The Commons Foundation.

“It is rare that we can offer donors the potential to have their gifts increased by 4X. If the community responds quickly, and funds are matched a second time by the state grant, it’s possible we could exceed our \$5 million Phase 1 fundraising goal. Funds in excess of \$5M would enable Phase 2, which could allow us to build a larger library, add a public square, and increase onsite

parking while significantly reducing construction time.”

To date, \$200,000 in new pledges from private citizens have been made to the Lerner-Berkemeier Challenge including contributions from Larkspur residents Tina McArthur and Richard Rubenstein, and Larkspur City Council member and former mayor Catherine Way. “This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to create a new library and community center that will be a vibrant gathering place and cultural hub for generations to come,” said Way.

Earlier this year, the City of Larkspur announced it will be vacating City Hall and will permanently move the Larkspur Library to The Commons. But with competing needs for city and state support, Jennings says the Foundation cannot rely on City funds alone. “The City will build what it can afford, so it’s imperative that we all come together to financially support this transformational project,” said Jennings.

►Library | A3

Library

From A1

As of the end of 2021, the TCF Capital Campaign had raised \$2.5M toward its \$5 million Phase 1 goal (not including \$800,000 of the \$1 million Lerner-Berkemeier Challenge). For more information or to participate in the Lerner-Berkemeier Challenge, visit thecommonsatlarkspur.org or email joejennings@thecommonsatlarkspur.org.

The Commons Foundation (TCF) is a citizen-led 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization designated by the City of Larkspur to raise private funds to build the new Library at The Commons, located at the corner of Rose Lane and Doherty Drive in Larkspur. Plans for the 2.4-acre City-owned property

include a modern library, public square, and community center, to be built in three phases. Phase 1 is projected to cost \$5 million and will include a 5,000 square foot library, parking for 15 cars, bicycle parking, a fenced children’s patio, and a ramada with framed views of Mount Tamalpais, providing shaded seating for outdoor programming. An additional \$5 million in Phase 2 will expand library space to a total of 10,000 square feet, increase onsite parking to 40 spaces, and add a public square, tower, and vehicle turnaround. A final \$10 million in Phase 3 will add a 10,000 square foot community center for cultural and community events, programming and exhibits, and increase onsite parking to 60 spaces. For further information visit thecommonsatlarkspur.org.