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## **CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY AWARDS \$5.23 MILLION TO THE CITY OF LARKSPUR**

Officials with the State Library announced Round One recipients of the Building Forward Library Infrastructure Program Grant on Monday, September 12, 2022. The City of Larkspur will receive \$5,232,582 to assist with the construction of a new 6,845 square foot library. The award amount was the maximum amount for which the City was eligible. The award was the eighteenth largest in Round One.

A new Larkspur Library, the first phase of the Larkspur Commons project, was one of 234 projects awarded funds. A priority of the Building Forward Grant Program is to renovate or replace library buildings that have safety and accessibility concerns. The Larkspur Library is currently located in Larkspur's 109-year-old City Hall. In its application, the City stated that replacement in a new location would be better than trying to address the numerous deficiencies and challenges at the current site. The new library will be located on a vacant city lot named The Commons at the corner of Doherty Drive and Rose Lane.

The Building Forward Program requires the City to match the grant amount dollar for dollar, making the initial project budget \$10.4 million. Most of the matching dollars will come from donations. The Commons Foundation, a citizen-led nonprofit organization designated by the City of Larkspur to raise private funds to build the new Library at The Commons, is nearing its goal of raising \$5 million for Phase One of the Commons Project. "We are thrilled that the City has secured this grant, more than doubling the contributions of our donors. We look forward to working in partnership with the City to turn the community's vision into reality," stated The Commons Foundation President Joe Jennings.

Councilmembers Catherine Way and Kevin Haroff serve as the ad hoc committee working closely with The Commons Foundation. "The success of The Commons Foundation in building awareness and support for this project gave us comfort to apply for this grant," stated Councilmember Way. Councilmember Haroff added, "to be this close to building a new library without local tax dollars is amazing."

Mayor Dan Hillmer expressed his gratitude, "I am overwhelmed that the State Library selected Larkspur for this award. I want to thank our staff for putting together a compelling application. This is a momentous day."

This is the second contribution the State will make to this effort. Earlier this year, Assemblymember Marc Levine secured \$1 million for the project from the Legislature. The \$1 million contribution will be used to prepare the project site and install infrastructure that will serve the Library and any other buildings the City ultimately locates in The Commons.

The City expects construction work on the new library to begin in early 2024.

**MEDIA PLEASE NOTE:**

For questions or to request an interview with a TCF representative, please contact Jennifer Golbus at (415) 302-2368 or [jennifer@jgolbus.com](mailto:jennifer@jgolbus.com).

**About The Commons Foundation**

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. For further information visit [thecommonsatlarkspur.org](http://thecommonsatlarkspur.org).