



Core features model only, not architectural plans



# Fort Bragg Library Expansion Project

Redwood boards salvaged from house to be repurposed in new building

When you are thinking about making a donation or a qualified charitable distribution, why not donate to the Fort Bragg Branch Library?

The library is an extraordinary community organization, providing programs for toddlers, grade school students, middle school, high school, and adults, not to mention material in every format, including e-collections. We also offer a popular seed library. Patrons can select material from 25 libraries in our three-county system. Internet access has increased library use so the computers are always full. We assist nearly 10,000 people a month, our user area stretching from Elk to Westport.

Our expansion project will provide more space and materials for an increasing number of patrons. In 2016, the Friends of Fort Bragg Library bought the ramshackle house next to the library. That lot has now been cleared, leveled and fenced, awaiting an architect.

The Friends of the Library have sponsored a number of fundraisers for this expansion. Since 2018, a grass-roots fundraiser called the \$1000 Club has added 75 members, raising over \$80,000. In addition to our building project, the Friends fund the library's active calendar of programs, paying for performers and providing materials and refreshments.

Your donation would be most welcome. Thank you. **Carolyn Schneider**, *City of Fort Bragg Representative to Mendocino County Library Advisory Board*

For more information, please contact FFBL Secretary, Valerie Frey, at [ffblnews@gmail.com](mailto:ffblnews@gmail.com) or write to PO Box 2718, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. Visit the library website at [fortbragglibrary.org](http://fortbragglibrary.org) Friends of the Fort Bragg Library, Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit corporation, Tax ID # 68-0013046.

**T**he greatest work is shared work, individual efforts made to further a common cause. The greatest wealth is commonwealth, individual or corporate contributions to a shared endeavor.

A thriving public library is a result of common work and common wealth. It is living proof that individuals value their local community and believe they have something to teach and something to learn from their neighbors.

While books and movies connect us to distant lives, library programs and displays, chance encounters in the aisles, recommendations from friends or members of the staff, connect us to each other here at home.

The sense of common purpose grows, nurturing larger goals like an informed electorate, educated workforce, universal literacy and civil society.

Libraries foster civil society by offering free and equal access to factual information and uncensored public discourse.

By supporting free, self-directed inquiry, libraries counter the pervasive influence of ideology and push back against oppressive norms that make differences unwelcome. Libraries celebrate differences yet welcome all people on an equal footing.

These goals are large and lofty but within reach. Pooling our common wealth, whether privately earned or publicly levied, will help build an informed citizenry and educated workforce. By sharing resources, we can create a civil society founded on mutual respect.

The Fort Bragg Library plays an expanding role in the work ahead of us. Our building needs to grow to do that work. Please support the library expansion, intellectually and financially. Thank you for considering these goals.

*Branch Librarian, **Daniel Hess***