

Humanities mission and record of contribution

The Lewiston Public Library, a department of the City of Lewiston, has served the Lewiston-Auburn community since 1903 providing a wide variety of library, literacy, and information services designed to meet the educational and cultural needs of our citizens. The mission of LPL is “Preserving our history, Connecting our community, and Enriching the life of the mind” and we carry out this mission by delivering services within six broad service responses: Nurture young readers, Connect to the online world, Promote and support lifelong learning, Support integration into American life, Focus on teens, and Acknowledge and celebrate seniors. The Library’s mission is reflected especially in its public programming for all ages, which before the pandemic, happened daily. Regular offerings have included traditional classes and monthly lectures, poetry and book discussions, many in conjunction with the Maine Humanities Council, but also embracing modern collaborative learning models, from Maker programming to weekly art therapy classes for children. For the past two years, the Library has been a partner site for the regional competition of National History Day for high school students. Prior to the pandemic, extensive planning centered around thematic programming in celebration of Maine’s bicentennial and the rich history and culture of the state.

The coronavirus pandemic has had especially challenging impacts on Lewiston children. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 26.1% of Lewiston families with school-aged children have incomes below the poverty level. Further, 27.8% of students are English Language Learners, most of whom are from refugee or asylum-seeking families. As a result, many of our local youth are in need of additional literacy and learning support, and in many cases, are limited by a lack of access to technology to help them succeed. The Library has long played a role in bridging this digital divide, providing free wireless internet throughout the building, separate computers reserved for youth, and free homework help services in partnership with nearby Bates College student tutors. Both the school district and the Library closed due to the pandemic on March 16, 2020. The resulting shift to virtual learning was complicated by a widespread lack of high-speed internet access in students’ homes, and without a public library, no way to address this need quickly.

Proposed activities and audience

The Library has continued to offer regular virtual programming for children during its closure, ranging from interactive story times to staff-led Maine history lessons paired with crafts (“Maine-ly Stories”) posted on the Children’s Department Facebook page and the Library YouTube channel. As we develop our reopening plan, it has become clear that in-person programming at the Library will be one of the last services to return, and children’s programming last of all. It is difficult for children to social distance and wear masks, so we will opt to reintroduce onsite programming for children only when it is safe. We also anticipate that many of the community’s usual summer camp programs will be cancelled this year or out of reach for families suffering financial hardships due to the pandemic, increasing the need for free cultural and educational offerings for youth. Consequently, Children’s Department staff will be adapting their programming services to remote models likely for the remainder of 2020. Many will be virtual. Others, recognizing the lack of technology access in Lewiston as well as concerns about increasing amounts of screen time for children, will support literacy education by low-tech methods. This hybrid approach will allow us to serve our diverse population of youth and families by addressing a variety of barriers.

This program would expand current Library digital offerings by making Tumblebooks and Scholastic Bookflix available to Library cardholders. Both products would increase ebook access for children to

prevent academic backsliding. The budget for Kanopy Kids, which includes a wide variety of streaming educational films and television programs, would be expanded to allow more families to access it each month. Live and pre-recorded programming would continue to be offered by Children's Department staff and paid humanities presenters to replicate the in-house program experience, potentially in multiple languages, along with instructional tutorials and Q&A sessions to support the new digital offerings. The Library's BookReach program, which normally sends volunteers to daycare facilities to read picture books, would be converted to an interactive streaming program to allow for safety of the children and volunteers.

The Library's Summer Reading Program would be offered virtually through the Beanstack app, but youth could also participate by calling the Library to report their progress. This hybrid model would increase safe reach of the program but also allow for youth participation where technology is limited. The program would be marketed through a mailing to library cardholders and amplified by working with the Lewiston Public School district.

The Youth Library Where You Are program would also extend beyond virtual borders. StoryWalks, multi-part stories arranged along a set path, and Little Free Libraries featuring free books for children to keep, would be erected in several outdoor Lewiston locations, to encourage family literacy alongside physical activity. Activity kits and library "subscription boxes," to include pairings of books, worksheets, and thematic crafts, would be mailed to pre-registered families each month, along with newsletters encouraging learning at home and heavily promoting the Youth Library Where You Are services. Finally, this program would also address different learning styles as well as the digital divide in literacy opportunities by purchasing a number of devices that would be circulated to families, including educational tablets that do not require internet access (Launchpads), audiobooks in the self-contained Playaway format, and hybrid audio/picture books (Wonderbooks).

Jobs and personnel

Two full-time positions would be retained in conducting the proposed activities, along with four part-time positions. The four part-time positions have been furloughed since March 16th, under a City-wide spending curtailment. Consequently, the work of these positions has had to be absorbed by the two full-time positions, limiting what the library can do to support humanities programs to families with children.

The Children's Librarian, Sara Groves, reports directly to Marcela Peres, the Library Director and Project Director. Sara is responsible for setting the timeline and overall direction of the program activities, and is the lead contact for Lewiston Public Schools and vendor partners. She will conduct much of the programming first-hand, and serves as direct supervisor for the other program staff. Sara will also be responsible for curating all materials purchased in support of program goals.

Library Technician Aphrodite Moser, also full-time, will conduct additional programming and would be involved in activity kit assembly and mailings. She will be the primary support staff alongside the Children's Librarian to provide public programming, materials purchasing, and building relationships with families and community organizations.

Two part-time Library Technicians also supplement regular Children's Programming. Under this program, they would convert their usual programming to virtual, likely in conjunction with activity kits sent to families or available for pickup. Krista Lord, 10 hours per week, conducts nature-based literacy

programs as well as STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) programs through hands-on learning paired with storytelling. Jackie Majerus-Collins, 6 hours per week, plans and presents early literacy programs for children five and younger.

Part-time BookReach Coordinator Trisha Scribellito would be responsible for converting the BookReach program to a virtual format: continuing to recruit and train BookReach program volunteers remotely, including on new technologies, scheduling virtual visits with daycare facilities, and preparing books for the volunteers to read in accordance with the Library's materials safe handling procedures under the current pandemic.

The Library Assistant supports day-to-day Children's Room operations, answering questions in-person, or by telephone or email. During the program months, they would be scheduled to assist Children's Room patrons while other staff are working on this program.

Institutional capacity

The Lewiston Public Library closed its doors to the public on March 16, 2020 in response to the pandemic. Thirteen staff members were able to continue working remotely, but 28 part-time or substitute staff needed to be placed on inactive furlough as part of a citywide spending curtailment effort. The City of Lewiston's FY21 budget, to begin on 7/1/20, estimates a \$1.6 million loss of revenue. As part of the budget process, 12 positions were eliminated from City departments. Should actual FY21 revenue losses be higher than projected, further budget cuts would be necessary. Positions unable to perform their usual job roles, like Library Children's staff, might be at risk of furlough or layoffs.

The City has a long-standing history of administering grants with few compliance issues. Separate funds are created to track costs in order to provide required report outs. The Library Department would be directly involved with maintaining program compliance. All involved staff are able to work on site during the grant period, and should this change, through teleworking accommodations.

The Library and its staff are seen throughout the community as a trusted resource and safe space for learning and community building. This positions the Library as a key partner for both the local school district and community organizations. The Library is a demonstrated humanities hub in Lewiston, and these programs will provide enrichment, cultural education, and paid opportunities to local experts, educators, historians, and other presenters at a time when many of their affiliated organizations are otherwise struggling to continue operations. Additionally, by continuing to support children and families during the pandemic, we help mitigate the impacts this is going to have on academic success, which will eventually impact the economic success of the City.

The Lewiston Public Library is a department of the City of Lewiston. Annual total operating costs for both the City and Library Department are as follows:

FY19:	City: \$139,732,103	Library only: \$1,048,177
FY18:	City: \$129,358,902	Library only: \$1,046,821
FY17:	City: \$114,072,533	Library only: \$1,002,677

RESEARCH & RELATED BUDGET - Budget Period 1

ORGANIZATIONAL DUNS: (b) (4)

Enter name of Organization: Lewiston, City of

Budget Type: Project Subaward/Consortium

Budget Period: 1 Start Date: 06/15/2020 End Date: 12/31/2020

A. Senior/Key Person

Prefix	First	Middle	Last	Suffix	Base Salary (\$)	Months			Requested Salary (\$)	Fringe Benefits (\$)	Funds Requested (\$)
						Cal.	Acad.	Sum.			
	Marcela	Souza	Peres		(b) (6)	6.50			0.00	0.00	0.00
Project Role: PD/PI											
	Sara		Groves		(b) (6)	6.50			(b) (6)	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Project Role: Children's Librarian											
	Aphrodite	Ivy	Moser		(b) (6)	6.50			(b) (6)	(b) (6)	(b) (6)
Project Role: Children's Library Technician											
	Krista		Lord		(b) (6)	6.50			(b) (6)	0.00	(b) (6)
Project Role: Part-time Library Technician											
	Jackie		Majerus-Collins		(b) (6)	6.50			(b) (6)	0.00	(b) (6)
Project Role: Part-time Library Technician											
	Trisha		Scribellito		(b) (6)	6.50			(b) (6)	0.00	(b) (6)
Project Role: Part-time BookReach Coordinator											

Additional Senior Key Persons:

Total Funds requested for all Senior Key Persons in the attached file 0.00

Total Senior/Key Person (b) (6)

B. Other Personnel

Number of Personnel	Project Role	Months			Requested Salary (\$)	Fringe Benefits (\$)	Funds Requested (\$)
		Cal.	Acad.	Sum.			
<input type="text"/>	Post Doctoral Associates	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Graduate Students	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Undergraduate Students	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	Secretarial/Clerical	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text" value="1"/>	Part-time Library Assistant	<input type="text"/>	6.50	<input type="text"/>	(b) (6)	0.00	(b) (6)
<input type="text" value="1"/>	Total Number Other Personnel				Total Other Personnel		(b) (6)
					Total Salary, Wages and Fringe Benefits (A+B)		73,272.39

C. Equipment Description

List items and dollar amount for each item exceeding \$5,000

Equipment item	Funds Requested (\$)
None	0.00
Additional Equipment: <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Add Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="Delete Attachment"/> <input type="button" value="View Attachment"/>	
Total funds requested for all equipment listed in the attached file	
Total Equipment	

D. Travel

	Funds Requested (\$)
1. Domestic Travel Costs (Incl. Canada, Mexico and U.S. Possessions)	0.00
2. Foreign Travel Costs	0.00
Total Travel Cost	0.00

E. Participant/Trainee Support Costs

	Funds Requested (\$)
1. Tuition/Fees/Health Insurance	0.00
2. Stipends	0.00
3. Travel	0.00
4. Subsistence	0.00
5. Other <input type="text" value="None"/>	0.00
<input type="text"/> Number of Participants/Trainees	Total Participant/Trainee Support Costs
	0.00

F. Other Direct Costs

		Funds Requested (\$)
1.	Materials and Supplies	20,080.00
2.	Publication Costs	
3.	Consultant Services	
4.	ADP/Computer Services	
5.	Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs	
6.	Equipment or Facility Rental/User Fees	
7.	Alterations and Renovations	
8.	Mailing Costs	15,050.00
9.	Digital Subscriptions	9,085.00
10.	Virtual Humanities Programming	4,360.00
Total Other Direct Costs		48,575.00

G. Direct Costs

		Funds Requested (\$)
Total Direct Costs (A thru F)		121,847.39

H. Indirect Costs

Indirect Cost Type	Indirect Cost Rate (%)	Indirect Cost Base (\$)	Funds Requested (\$)
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Total Indirect Costs			<input type="text"/>

Cognizant Federal Agency
 (Agency Name, POC Name, and
 POC Phone Number)

I. Total Direct and Indirect Costs

		Funds Requested (\$)
Total Direct and Indirect Institutional Costs (G + H)		121,847.39

J. Fee

Funds Requested (\$)
<input type="text"/>

K. Total Costs and Fee

		Funds Requested (\$)
Total Costs and Fee (I + J)		121,847.39

L. Budget Justification

(Only attach one file.)

RESEARCH & RELATED BUDGET - Cumulative Budget

Totals (\$)

Section A, Senior/Key Person		(b) (6)
Section B, Other Personnel		(b) (6)
Total Number Other Personnel	1	
Total Salary, Wages and Fringe Benefits (A+B)		73,272.39
Section C, Equipment		0.00
Section D, Travel		0.00
1. Domestic	0.00	
2. Foreign	0.00	
Section E, Participant/Trainee Support Costs		0.00
1. Tuition/Fees/Health Insurance	0.00	
2. Stipends	0.00	
3. Travel	0.00	
4. Subsistence	0.00	
5. Other	0.00	
6. Number of Participants/Trainees		
Section F, Other Direct Costs		48,575.00
1. Materials and Supplies	20,080.00	
2. Publication Costs		
3. Consultant Services		
4. ADP/Computer Services		
5. Subawards/Consortium/Contractual Costs		
6. Equipment or Facility Rental/User Fees		
7. Alterations and Renovations		
8. Other 1	15,050.00	
9. Other 2	9,085.00	
10. Other 3	4,360.00	
Section G, Direct Costs (A thru F)		121,847.39
Section H, Indirect Costs		
Section I, Total Direct and Indirect Costs (G + H)		121,847.39
Section J, Fee		
Section K, Total Costs and Fee (I + J)		121,847.39