

My name is Rachel Rosekind. I am the District 1 Library Commissioner, a Library Foundation organizing committee member, and a teacher.

In education and human welfare circles, we talk about opportunity zones: creating them, supporting them, expanding them. A public library is not only a preeminent opportunity zone, it is an opportunity zone **multiplier**. Through partnerships with varied community groups, an embedded 26-branch system, ever-increasing digital resources, and boundless inspiration, the Contra Costa County Library is an opportunity zone **exponent and proponent**. The three library-related funding requests will create, support, and expand our county's opportunity zones and in so doing, build greater institutional equity and community accountability.

The Bay Area possesses tremendous capital – political, social, creative, intellectual, and financial. But this bounty is not distributed evenly, by place or by race, as evidenced in the variable state of our library facilities, in disparate open hours across branches, and in the uneven capacity of individual branches to raise additional funds.

Numerous libraries have decaying infrastructure - Measure X funds will repair and renovate them. Staffing for the Outreach Van will broaden our early literacy engagement and magnify its impact. And the Library Foundation will capitalize upon the stellar efforts of our existing friends and foundation groups and coordinate with library administration and the community to strategically attain greater equity by raising private dollars to supplement public funding.

Public libraries hold the dreams of individuals and the aspirations of communities. They expand our vision of what is possible – not just in the books that are housed there, but in the buildings that house them and the ideas that underpin their institution: accessibility, education, critical inquiry, imagination, and community enrichment. It is vital that human diversity is honored and equity achieved through all aspects of our library's operations - These three proposals work toward such a goal.