



2010 Annual Awards Program

Program Excellence Awards Nomination Form

Deadline for Nominations: March 12, 2010

Complete this form (sections 1 and 2) and submit with your descriptive narrative.

SECTION 1: Information About the Nominated Program

Program Excellence Award Category (*select only one*):

- ☐ Community Health and Safety
- ☒ Community Partnership
- ☐ Community Sustainability
- ☐ Strategic Leadership and Governance

Name of program being nominated: The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium

Jurisdiction(s) where program originated: Lafayette, California

Jurisdiction population(s): 24,501

Please indicate the month and year in which the program you are nominating was fully implemented. (Note: All Program Excellence Award nominations must have been fully implemented by or before January 31, 2009, to be eligible. The start date should not include the initial planning phase.)

Month: January Year: 2006

Name(s) and title(s) of individual(s) who should receive recognition for this award at the ICMA Annual Conference in San Jose, California, October 2010. (Each individual listed **MUST** be an ICMA member to be recognized.):

Name: Steven Falk

Title: City Manager Jurisdiction: Lafayette, CA

SECTION 2: Information About the Nominator/Primary Contact

Name of contact: Steven Falk

Title: City Manager Jurisdiction: Lafayette, CA

Street address: 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210

City: Lafayette State/Province: CA

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This has never been tried before, this idea to gather twelve preeminent educational and cultural institutions together to create a learning community greater than the sum of its parts.

*This has never been tried before, this collaboration of **zoo keepers** and **hospital doctors** and **Shakespearean thespians**, of **planetary scientists** and **greenbelt advocates**, of college and university **professors** and museum **curators**, all gathering in a single place – a suburban library – where children, parents, and grandparents are enriched by great literature, research technology, afternoon programs, nighttime exhibits, civic lectures, beautiful music, spoken words, expert classes, and hands-on workshops.*

This has never been tried before. Until now, that is, in Lafayette, California.

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America's best libraries reflect the values, interests, and passions of the communities they serve. The new Lafayette Library and Learning Center, which opened to great acclaim in November, 2009, is the new permanent home to the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium – a unique partnership of a dozen of the San Francisco Bay Area's most prestigious non-profit institutions that leverages the Bay Area's rich urban cultural assets into the suburban community. Named in honor of Nobel Prize winner and 45-year Lafayette resident Glenn Seaborg, the partners began programming in Lafayette in 2005 and have since offered more than fifty programs, lectures, presentations, and discovery events to the greater Lafayette community.

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This nomination, if awarded, would recognize the innovative nature and partnerships of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium and its potential for replication in other communities.

THE NEED

Ten years ago, as planning began for a new library, Lafayette's residents let it be known that their new library should be more than a shining new building, more than a repository for books, more than a tech center or comfortable place to read. With a longstanding interest and investment in education, residents – through a series of focus groups, interviews, and surveys – said repeatedly that the new library should encourage and present opportunities for learning for all of the community's generations.

Given Lafayette's extraordinary education profile, the focus on learning was not surprising. Ninety-eight percent of Lafayette's adults are high school graduates, sixty-nine percent hold bachelor or higher degrees, and a stunning thirty percent hold graduate or professional degrees (as compared with ten percent for California and ten percent for the nation). The community's high educational standards are reflected in its commitment to quality public education. Indeed, with an API score of 886, the Acalanes high school district is the top performing public high school district in all of California (2008), and among the best in the nation.

Lafayette is a so-called "inner ring" suburban community, located about twenty miles east of San Francisco. Recognizing the residents' hunger for educational enrichment and the City's lack of resources to meet this need, library volunteers noted that while many museums have multitudes of displays and educational resources, only a fraction of these resources are in use at any given time. Most are in the basement or otherwise dormant or underused. Would the urban non-profits be interested in promoting these dormant resources out to suburban Lafayette? Doing so, it seemed, would be mutually beneficial, allowing the institutions to achieve their outreach missions at low or no incremental cost while helping the City satisfy its residents. To find out, Lafayette contacted a dozen of the Bay Area's top non-profit cultural institutions and

inquired about their interest in and willingness to serve as a partner to the community. All responded positively, and thus was born the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium.

The Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium is made up 12 members:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ California Shakespeare Theater
<i>Nourishing the imaginations of audiences, artists and learners of all ages through the plays of William Shakespeare</i>
www.calshakes.org▪ Chabot Space & Science Center
<i>An innovative teaching and learning center focusing on astronomy, space sciences and the interrelationships of all sciences</i>
www.chabotspace.org▪ Commonwealth Club of California
<i>Illuminating important ideas for 104 years</i>
www.commonwealthclub.org▪ Greenbelt Alliance
<i>Protecting open space and promoting livable communities in partnership with diverse coalitions on public policy, advocacy and education</i>
www.greenbelt.org▪ John F. Kennedy University
<i>A rich learning environment where students and faculty collaborate in a spirit of inquiry, dialogue and service</i>
www.jfku.edu▪ John Muir / Mount Diablo Health System
<i>A premier healthcare provider in the San Francisco Bay Area</i>
www.johnmuirhealth.com | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lindsay Wildlife Museum
<i>Connecting people and wildlife to inspire responsibility and respect for the world we share</i>
www.wildlifemuseum.org▪ Oakland Museum of California
<i>The only museum devoted to the art, history and natural sciences of California</i>
www.museumca.org▪ The Oakland Zoo in Knowland Park
<i>The East Bay's zoo for 85 years</i>
www.oaklandzoo.org▪ St. Mary's College of California
<i>Celebrating the classical tradition of liberal arts education</i>
www.stmarys-ca.edu▪ UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies
<i>Advancing interdisciplinary research in American politics, government and public policy</i>
www.igs.berkeley.edu▪ UC Berkeley Lawrence Hall of Science
<i>Developing model programs for teaching and learning science and mathematics for dissemination to an ever-increasing audience</i>
www.lhs.berkeley.edu |
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TANGIBLE RESULTS AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

The first Consortium program was offered on December 5, 2005, when Richard Clarke, former Chair of the National Security Council, spoke to the Lafayette community at the local Veterans Hall via a program offered by San Francisco's *Commonwealth Club*. Since that time, Consortium partners have offered more than thirty programs, including speeches and presentations by Bruce Babbitt, Dan Koshland, Robert Reich, Meg Whitman, and Anthony Bourdain. More than 3,000 participants from throughout the region have thus far enjoyed Consortium programs. Attached please find the most recent program guide for the Consortium.

To date, all program coordination and delivery has been managed by volunteers, and program space has been donated by local schools and non-profits. The City thus has no operating budget, and – other than some broad non-assigned overhead costs – has spent almost nothing. While there are other examples of collaborations between a library and a museum, to our knowledge there has never before been a collaboration at this scale or diversity, delivered at this low cost. The Consortium has captured the attention of the press, eliciting favorable articles in local and national journals. Selected quotes include:

Cultural institutions join forces to offer unprecedented programming, collaboration

- ***School Library Journal***, February 2004

Consortium envisions library of the future – 12 institutions collaborate on learning center

- ***San Jose Mercury News***, January 5, 2004

A Groundbreaking Consortium Model – The city of Lafayette, jointly with 12 area museums and other institutions, has proposed a...cooperative community cultural organization known as the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium. Taking advantage of the city's proximity to Bay Area cultural organizations, the consortium seeks to use the library as a venue for a range of learning activities

from museum displays to public lectures. "We're proposing to take the best features of urban California institutions and bring them into a suburban library setting", said Lafayette City Manager Steven Falk....Falk sees the model being developed in Lafayette as one that can be used by other libraries, primarily those located in ring cities – suburbs that surround major urban cities...."It reimagines the library as a place for lifetime learning."

▪ **American Libraries**, June/July 2004

***Other cities should take note**, for the activities Lafayette envisions could be replicated – at low cost – elsewhere... . "Schools and libraries and museums are preserving the ever-increasing amount of information we're generating as a society," said Roger Falcone, a UC Berkeley professor and Lafayette school board member who ignited the early thinking on the project. "The new library is a way to bring it together."*

▪ Editorial, **San Francisco Chronicle**, January 11, 2004

LESSONS LEARNED

Space is limited to describe the multitude of lessons learned during the startup of the Glenn Seaborg Learning Consortium. Perhaps most importantly, we've learned that the non-profits perform most consistently when there is a solid, professional liaison to inform, brainstorm with, and guide them. We began with volunteer management, but are now fundraising for a staff member who can serve in that capacity. For more information, please contact Lafayette City Manager Steven Falk at 925-284-1968.

MARCH • APRIL • MAY 2010 SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS



LAFAYETTE LIBRARY
AND LEARNING CENTER

LAFAYETTE LIBRARY AND LEARNING CENTER

HOME OF THE GLENN SEABORG LEARNING CONSORTIUM

GLENN SEABORG
LEARNING CONSORTIUM

3491 Mt Diablo Blvd., Lafayette **Questions?** 283.6513-Ext:101 **Calendar Updates:** lafayettelib.com

Date and Time	GSLC Partner	Program and Location	Registration and Fees
Wednesday March 17 7:30-9:00 PM	Oakland Museum	California Arts & Crafts Movement... Explore the evolution of this distinctive, intriguing 20th Century art form with Associate Curator Julie Muniz. Community Hall	Teens and Adults...No fee consortium@lafayettelib.com
Thursday March 18 6:30-8 PM	Commonwealth Club	Steve Poizner, Republican Gubernatorial Candidate... Learn how his views and campaign will challenge Meg Whitman. Veterans Memorial	Adults (note location of event) Tickets: 415.597.6705... commonwealthclub.org
Sunday March 28 1-2:30 PM	California Shakespeare Theater	Kids Interactive Shakespeare... Hero or villain? Listen to and then act out stories from many of the Bard's famous plays. Community Hall	Grades 3-7...No fee consortium@lafayettelib.com
Thursday April 1 7-8:30 PM	Oakland Museum	De la Guerra Family: Power & Patriarchy in Mexican California... A model of how 19thC marriages of European men and Californian women changed history. Community Hall	Teens and Adults...No fee consortium@lafayettelib.com
Wednesday April 7 10-11:30 AM	Oakland Zoo	ZooMobile... Learn about the habits, habitats and survival challenges of rescued and exotic animals from the Oakland Zoo. Arts & Science Discovery Center	Families...No fee consortium@lafayettelib.com
4 Mondays Apr. 12, 19, 26, May 3 3:30-5 PM	Lawrence Hall of Science	Ingenuity in Action... Learn the inner workings of everyday machines, devices and structures: design, build, then take apart a project. Arts & Science Discovery Center	Grades 6-8, maximum 16 \$120 for 4 workshops lawrencehallscience.org
Tuesday, April 13 7-8:30 PM	Institute of Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley	Game Change: Obama and the Clintons, McCain and Palin, and the Race of a Lifetime... Author and Time political analyst Mark Halperin reveals stories that emerged from his unrivaled access to "behind the curtain" during the 2008 presidential campaign. Insights on Giuliani, Edwards and much more. Not to be missed!! Community Hall	Teens and Adults...\$20 advance purchase by April 1, \$25 at door if space available consortium@lafayettelib.com
Wednesday Apr. 14 7-8:30 PM	Oakland Zoo	Challenges & Triumphs of Global Wildlife Conservation... Hear how the Zoo collaborates internationally to educate and preserve species and their natural habitats. Community Hall	Teens and Adults...No fee consortium@lafayettelib.com
Tuesday Apr. 20 7-8:30 PM	California Shakespeare Theater	Steinbeck's Pastures of Heaven... Experience a lesser known but important Steinbeck work through lecture, demonstrations and community activity. Community Hall	All ages...No fee consortium@lafayettelib.com
Thursday Apr. 22 6:30-8 PM	Commonwealth Club	Why "Y" Matters... Neurobiologist, Dr. Louann Brizendine, author of <i>The Female Brain</i> , explains how the male brain is different from the female one. Community Hall	Teens and Adults...Tickets: 415.597.6705... commonwealthclub.org
Tuesday May 11 7-8:30 PM	Greenbelt Alliance	Smart Growth... Explore how we can make our region more climate friendly, affordable and competitive while protecting our farms, forests & watersheds. Community Hall	Adults consortium@lafayettelib.com
Thursday May 20 6:30-8 PM	Commonwealth Club	Roadmap To 100: The Breakthrough Science of Living a Long and Healthy Life... Dr. Walter Bortz, one of America's most distinguished scientific experts on aging and longevity, shares his insights on "robust living" Community Hall	Teens and Adults...Tickets: 415.597.6705... commonwealthclub.org