



Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association

570 E. Remington Drive, Sunnyvale, California 94087

www.heritageparkmuseum.org • 408.749.0220

Feb.22, 2024

Dear Mayor, Vice Mayor and Councilmembers,

I am writing to respectfully request your assistance in securing a one-time only budget allocation of \$1,500,000 to support the previously approved expansion of the Sunnyvale Historical Society and Museum Association (SHSMA). With our ever-changing world, despite three years of trying, we have been unable to obtain the needed funds from the corporate world or through grants, fundraisers, or donations. As you know, construction costs are increasing dramatically.

This 1800 sq. ft. extension of Heritage Park Museum will include an in-depth exhibit of technological achievements made locally during the Cold War era by Lockheed Missiles and Space Co., Kodak, Northrop Grumman, U.S. Reconnaissance (Blue Cube) and others. These achievements changed world history. Sunnyvale was ground zero during those years; consequently, this history should be saved in Sunnyvale. We plan an extensive exhibition of artifacts which we have from that time and continue to receive from the companies and retirees. It is urgent that it be built as soon as possible so they are not lost as more retirees die or move away. The most recent temporary exhibit at the museum featured Lockheed Missiles and Space Co. and drew hundreds of visitors. This new extension will become a major draw for Sunnyvale.

The new building wing will also house an enlarged, sorely needed research library which will allow better access to the museum's extensive papers. When city staff, residents, or others use the museum to research a topic, there is currently no space for them to work.

For fifteen years, volunteers have worked tirelessly to keep the history alive by archiving and maintaining materials that tell the story of Sunnyvale and the Santa Clara Valley without asking the City for additional funds. We are now requesting the City to invest in its own building to maintain this level of professionalism of the museum and its history. As you know, the museum was built by the Historical Society; however, since it sits on City-owned land, the building is technically owned by the City. The same holds true for the proposed extension wing.

SHSMA will raise an additional \$1M for interior design, exhibit design, and installation along with the assured assistance from both Lockheed Corporate and the Historical Office of the National Reconnaissance Office. This new extension will be maintained, staffed, and operated by the Society per our 50-year comprehensive agreement with the City of Sunnyvale.

Thank you for considering our request. Should you have any questions or requests, please do not hesitate to contact me at lbmuseum46@gmail.com or 408-472-1627.

Yours truly,

Laura Babcock, Director

Heritage Park Museum