

Community Focus Statement G: Reinforce the sense of “community”.

Action Statement G.2: Advocate for substantial improvements to the Joshua Tree Library.

G.2

Benchmark: The Joshua Tree Library is expanded and enhanced to meet the community’s needs and serves as a community landmark and point of community pride.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Variable depending on improvements identified.



Current facility for the San Bernardino County Library branch at Joshua Tree. Photo source: San Bernardino County Public Library

The Friends of the Joshua Tree Library and the Joshua Tree community lobby and advocate for improved infrastructure, facilities, and equipment at the Joshua Tree Library. With the Friends of the Joshua Tree Library taking the lead, the community could identify short- and long-term needs for the improvement of the library. Improvements to the Joshua Tree Library could include additional art exhibit space, designated children’s and teens’ reading centers, tutoring or meeting rooms, or a computer lab. After assessing community needs and desires, plans for expanding the library infrastructure or the construction of a new facility could commence.

Joshua Tree Library. Additionally, a variety of organizations offer grants specifically for libraries, including the American Library Association, the Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The community could lobby at the county or state level to receive the much-needed funding to expand the

Libraries foster thoughtful communities and also serve as a place where people can gather to know their neighbors. Libraries serve as the “people’s university” and community centers for diverse populations, such as the populations found in Joshua Tree. With proper funding and planning, the Joshua Tree community can proudly develop an iconic and unique public community gathering space, inclusive of all citizens.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Complete an assessment of current facilities, and develop a wants/needs list for library improvements.	Champion with Friends of the Joshua Tree Library	Years 1 – 3	Friends of the Joshua Tree Library http://www.joshuatreefol.org/
2. Develop a plan and proposal for improvements (whether they include building expansion, rehabilitation, new construction, or new equipment). Define current deficiencies and community needs.	Champion with Friends of the Joshua Tree Library	Years 1 – 3	San Bernardino County Library http://www.sbclib.org/ Public Libraries Online www.PublicLibrariesOnline.org American Library Association http://www.ala.org/
3. Identify available funding support and resources.	Champion with Friends of the Joshua Tree Library	Years 1 – 3	The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries http://www.laurabushfoundation.com/
4. Apply for grant funding, and continue other fundraising efforts within the community.	Champion with Friends of the Joshua Tree Library	Years 1 – 3	Institute of Museum and Library Services https://www.ims.gov/
5. Construct improvements to the Joshua Tree Library.	San Bernardino County Library	Year 3 – On-going	