

## **Background info on Submission:**

Basic idea – Purchase and install a bicycle repair station at an “urban” branch to support workforce development by supporting and expanding those who can rely on bicycles as their primary mode of transportation.

### *1. The specific local target population (include evidence of researching or measuring this, if possible):*

Our proposal targets the vibrant community of commuters within Washoe County, particularly those who rely on bicycles as their primary mode of transportation. With a poverty rate of 11% and a population nearing half a million, there's a significant need to support alternative transportation methods. Census data reveals that only 0.8% of residents commute by bicycle, indicating an opportunity to enhance accessibility and infrastructure for this underserved group. By strategically placing bicycle repair stations at each of our urban branches, we aim to empower commuters, job seekers, and the general workforce with the resources they need to maintain their bicycles efficiently. This initiative not only promotes sustainable transportation but also fosters economic mobility and equity within our community.

### *2. The problem addressed:*

The problem we address is the lack of accessible resources for commuters who rely on bicycles as their primary mode of transportation within Washoe County. Despite the potential benefits of cycling, such as cost-effectiveness and environmental sustainability, many face obstacles due to limited access to maintenance services. Without proper upkeep, bicycles can quickly become unusable, posing significant challenges for individuals who depend on them for commuting to work or accessing essential services. By providing bicycle repair stations at each of our urban branches, we aim to tackle this issue head-on, ensuring that cyclists have convenient access to the tools and resources necessary to keep their bicycles in optimal condition. This initiative not only promotes alternative transportation but also addresses transportation equity by supporting those who rely on bicycles as a means of mobility.

### *3. The solution (service, program, resource, etc.) the library would provide:*

Our proposed solution involves the installation of a bicycle repair station at the Sparks Library. These stations will be equipped with essential tools and resources necessary for basic bicycle maintenance and repair, including tire pumps, wrenches, tire levers, and other commonly needed tools. Additionally, we will provide instructional materials, such as manuals and online tutorials (through QR codes attached to stations), to empower users with the knowledge and skills needed to perform minor repairs themselves.

Moreover, we will offer periodic workshops and training sessions led by experienced mechanics, covering topics such as basic bicycle maintenance, flat tire repair, and brake adjustments. These workshops will not only serve as

educational opportunities but also as community-building events where cyclists can connect with one another and share tips and advice.

By offering these resources and programs, we aim to support and encourage bicycle commuting as a sustainable and accessible mode of transportation, while also fostering a sense of community among cyclists within Washoe County.

*4. One recommendation or best practice from one of the five key sections (identified on pages 6-7) in the free [ALA Libraries Build Business Playbook](#) that you would utilize?*

In line with the sustainability section of the ALA Libraries Build Business Playbook, we will forge partnerships with local nonprofits to enhance the sustainability of our bicycle repair station program. Collaborating with organizations such as the Reno Bike Project, which provides free and low-cost used bikes and repair facilities, will enrich our initiative by offering users access to additional resources and expertise. By partnering with the Kiwanis Club and The Biggest Little Trail Stewardship, we can tap into their networks and resources to promote the program and engage with the community.

These partnerships will not only strengthen our program's sustainability by leveraging existing infrastructure and community connections but also foster a sense of collective ownership and responsibility for promoting cycling and sustainable transportation in Washoe County. By working together with local nonprofits, we can ensure that our bicycle repair station program continues to thrive and evolve to meet the needs of cyclists and the community for years to come.

*5. Resources already available to your library?*

Our library system possesses several resources that directly address the problem of bicycle maintenance and support sustainable transportation:

1. **Book Collection on Bicycle Repair:** Our library already maintains a collection of books and resources on bicycle repair and maintenance. These materials provide valuable guidance and instruction for cyclists looking to perform basic repairs and upkeep on their bicycles.
2. **Bicycle Racks:** The presence of bicycle racks demonstrates our commitment to supporting cyclists and sustainable transportation. These racks provide a secure space for cyclists to park and lock their bicycles while visiting the library, promoting cycling as a viable mode of transportation.
3. **Available Space:** Our library branches have ample outdoor space that can accommodate the installation of bicycle repair stations. This existing infrastructure allows us to easily integrate the new program into our facilities without the need for significant modifications.

**6. REVISED BUDGET BASED ON ACTUAL AWARD AMOUNT:** *How you would use the \$1,000 prize money (please include a simple budget for your solution):*

1. Purchase of Bicycle Repair Station:

Cost per station: \$1,000 x 1 station = \$1,000 (estimate via Saris

In-kind match

1. Infrastructure)

Installation costs: \$250 per station x 1 = \$250 (estimate via Saris

Infrastructure)

2. Workshop and Training Supplies:

Purchase of tools and materials for workshops and training sessions: \$100

Total Budget: \$1,350

*7. How you would assess the library's impact to the target population:*

We will assess impact through usage data, surveys, workshop participation, partnership engagement, and longitudinal studies. Usage data will track station usage and repairs. Surveys and feedback cards will collect user satisfaction and suggestions. Workshop participation will gauge educational effectiveness. Partnership engagement will measure collaboration with local nonprofits. Longitudinal studies will track changes in cycling behavior over time. These methods will provide insights into program effectiveness, allowing us to adapt and improve services for the target population.