

MEETING NOTICE: There will be a Special Meeting of the  
Blanchard /Santa Paula Public Library District Board of Trustees  
Tuesday, October 30, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.  
Blanchard Community Library  
119 N. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Santa Paula, CA 93060.

#### AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are welcomed and encouraged. The President of the Board will acknowledge visitors wishing to speak on a topic on the special meeting Board agenda. Only public comments relating to a topic on the agenda will be accepted. The Board is prohibited from taking action on any item not part of the printed agenda. When addressing the Library Board, please stand to be recognized by the Board President, state your full name and address, and direct your comments to the entire Library Board.

The Library Board of Trustees requests that speakers conduct themselves with civility and keep in mind the rights and well-being of all members of the Santa Paula community.

D. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Interview candidates and selection to fill vacant trustee position (information, discussion, possible action)

E. ADJOURNMENT

*In compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need a disability-related modification, accommodation, or other special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Ned Branch, Interim Director of the Blanchard/Santa Paula Community Library, at 805-525-2394. Notification 48 hours before the meeting will enable reasonable arrangements to be made.*

10 Oct 2018

To the Attention of: Board of Trustees of the Blanchard/Santa Paula Library District

Attachment: Responses to the Questions of the Board of Trustees

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Please accept this letter as my application for consideration to fill the vacant seat in the Board of Trustees of the Blanchard/Santa Paula Library District.

I have been a resident of Santa Paula since June of 2017 and prior to that I lived in Quartz Hill, CA. I am originally from a small agricultural community in South Texas called the Rio Grande Valley, born and raised in the city of Harlingen, Texas. I enlisted in the United States Air Force for 4 years right after graduating from high school and moved to the Antelope Valley after my enlistment where I resided from 1985 to 2017. I attended college during and after my enlistment graduating with an A.S. degree in Jet Propulsion Technology and a B.S degree in Industrial Technology. I later attended a graduate certificate program in Executive Management at UCLA.

I met and married my wife Maria in the Antelope Valley and we have a son (24) and a daughter (26). Maria attended Antelope Valley College and graduated with two A.S. degrees and currently works for Ventura County Public Health, in addition to assisting with management of our rental properties. My daughter Mariel attended Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island where she graduated with B.S. in Accounting, she transferred to Northeastern University graduating with M.S. degree in Accounting. She is a certified public accountant working in Boston as a financial auditor. My son Daniel enlisted in the United States Marine Corps immediately after graduating from high school; spending 1.5 years training as a Joint Fires Observer (coordinates fire power). Upon completion of his training he transferred to the United States Marine Corps Reserves assigned to a Special Forces unit, Air Naval Gun Fire Liaison Company (ANGLICO). He served a tour of duty in Afghanistan with his unit and upon his unit's return he transitioned back to the United States Marine Corps Reserves ANGLICO unit. Daniel currently attends community college in Santa Clarita on a full time basis and plans to transition to a university next fall. Daniel also works on a part time basis for NASA at Edwards AFB as a contract Federal Security Officer.

I have a diverse professional background working in the aerospace industry in various capacities for over 30 years. I initially enlisted in the United States Air Force where I worked as a jet engine mechanic. After completing my enlistment I separated with an honorable discharge and I went on to work for Rockwell International for 5 years starting as an aircraft test mechanic, transitioning to an engineering position and ultimately as a project coordinator. I later went to work for Wyle Laboratories in 1991 starting as a Rocket Propulsion Test Engineer, later as project Engineer, Business Development Manager, Program Manager and Director. I worked for 3.5 years for NTS as General Manager of their Santa Clarity test facility. I returned to work for Wyle Laboratories (now KBRwyle) in 2015 where I now work in Camarillo as a Sr. Program Manager managing a portfolio of programs supporting US Navy airborne electronic warfare systems.

I have a keen interest to participate in civic duties within my community and I am very impressed with the services provided by Blanchard/Santa Paula Library. I would like to provide my time and background to ensure the Library services successfully continues into the future of my adapted community.

VR,



Ricardo (Rick) Reyes  
610 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St.  
Santa Paula, CA 93060  
661-816-3613

## Responses to the Questions of the Board of Trustees

1. Why do you want to be considered for the library Board?

Response:

I have adapted Santa Paula as my new home and I feel the library provides a needed set of services to the community and I would like to participate in maintaining these vital services and in shaping them for the future.

2. What personal experiences and skills can you bring to the library Board to help serve the library?

Response:

I grew up in a small farming community much like Santa Paula and I realized firsthand the importance a center like a public library is to the community. Yes there are books and computers, but equally important is the sense of community that a public library embraces and provides for people of all ages.

I have extensive executive and operations management experience gained from decades of working in the aerospace industry and in private investment. My leadership skills have been shaped and applied in building and working within high performance teams with a clear view that all team members' contributions are critical to the final outcome.

3. What do you perceive to be the library's role within the community, and what do you perceive to be in the library's best interests for securing its welfare and progress?

Response:

The library should strive to provide for a place of learning, cultural enrichment and sharing of hobbies. These could be accomplished through printed media, technology, study centers, interactive teaching, presentations and seminars. The topics should be diverse and tailored for the community same as a business would do to stay competitive and serve its customer base.

I do not have an informed response in regards to the library's best interest for securing its welfare and progress. My recommendation would be to conduct an in depth analysis that includes a trade study of options. The analysis would encompass a review of the current status and identify where it needs to be in the future along with the resources required to achieve such goals. The trade study would identify available options such as joining the county library system or becoming a city library or remaining as a district. The trade study would present pros and cons, risk and opportunities and ultimately concrete paths.

4. What do you perceive to be unmet needs in the community, and what do you see as the library's role in helping meet those needs?

Response:

There lots of unmet needs in the community, not all necessarily to be satisfied by the Library but by partnerships between the City Of Santa Paula, its residents and the private business industrial sector.

I believe the library currently provides a decent set of services to the community but for the immediate future, expending its available hours and improving the marketing efforts for current available services. As the community grows, the library services should grow to the extent possible by its funding. Assuming a perfect world where such funds are available, the library should provide an outreach program to senior citizens, elementary school aged children and teen agers. Seniors could use some time away from their homes to enrich their lives. Young children and teens need to be positively inspired and the library can provide such means. The library infrastructure should include the latest technology typical of a modern library providing for digital systems with equally trained staff.

5. The library's user population is diverse. There is a vast difference between the modern library and the library of yesteryear. Please explain what a "modern library" means to you.

Response:

In my view the "modern library" as previously noted should provide for a learning environment, cultural enrichment and for sharing of hobbies implementing the latest technologies. It should provide for modern infrastructure and diverse services that go beyond printed media. It should also provide some service beyond its walls and extend its services to residents that are unable to use the in-house services.

6. Is your library doing a good job? Does it serve the community well? What can it do better?

Response:

As I previously noted, the library provides a decent set of services, and I do feel that it serves the community well. A better marketing effort will help educate the community of the current services.

There are lots of additional services and infrastructure improvement that can be made with the right amount of funding. Your strategic plan provides for a very good vision of where the library is headed and the services and improvements that it wants to incorporate.

7. Do you have a library card?

Response:

Yes I do.

October 15, 2018

Blanchard Community Library  
118 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Dear Board of Trustees,

I am submitting my application for your consideration to fill the vacancy on the Blanchard Library Board of Trustees. I am interested in the important work that the Library does and I feel that my experience and background would be an asset in furthering the mission of the Library.

I was born and raised in Santa Paula and graduated from Santa Paula High School, but have only recently moved back to town as of June of 2017. During the time I was away, I graduated with a Bachelors with Honors in Engineering from the California Institute of Technology and with a Ph.D. in Sociology from Cornell University. My work experience over the years has centered on delivering services in the non-profit sector, teaching sociology at the university level, and performing data analysis for private businesses with an emphasis on data forensics. The breadth of my experience combined with my commitment to education and my professional expertise in information technology leads me to believe that I would be a compelling choice for the Board.

While growing up, the library was not a central part of my life. I have made it so for my children, however, and have seen firsthand what a transformative power a well-functioning library with strong ties in the community can be. I hope to share this realization with others like me in Santa Paula whom only incompletely knew of the treasured resource we have in Blanchard Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Sandoval, Ph.D.

## Sandoval Application

### 1. Why do you want to be considered for the library Board?

I grew up in Santa Paula and excelled in school, except for in one area – Reading. Reading wasn't encouraged in my home, and we didn't have money for books. Thankfully, I was able to *get into top universities and eventually learned the necessity - and joy - of reading.* Beyond that history, my current employment as a data analyst highlights the fact that knowledge nowadays comes in all sorts of forms. Having a strong community library can help citizens navigate the flood of information that is easy to get at but much harder to interpret.

### 2. What personal experiences and skills can you bring to the library Board to help serve the library?

I have been in education in a variety of ways for many years. While in college, I taught algebra in a classroom setting, was a private tutor and did a research project on STEM education curriculum for middle schools. I was a teaching assistant in graduate school (for which I won an award) and have taught sociology at the university level for a number of years as an adjunct professor.

Professionally, I am currently an information technology consultant, focusing on data analysis in general and medical data accounting forensics as a specialty. The combination of expert computer literacy and professional educational experience should give me a strong basis to make a contribution to the board.

### 3. What do you perceive to be the library's role within the community, and what do you perceive to be in the library's best interests for securing its welfare and progress?

The library has two primary functions in this day and age vis-à-vis the community. First, a library must do all it can to be the central purveyor of information in the city: books, yes, but also other media, data, access to the internet and information pertinent to their participation in the community. A second function is to disseminate that information in creative ways: certainly by having a diverse collection for check-out, but also sponsoring events and workshops, creating an inviting space for community gathering, developing collaborations with other local organizations, and going beyond the walls of the library as well.

Securing the library's welfare and progress first falls on the board. Given the history of financial problems at the library, an engaged board that holds staff accountable is critical. Beyond that, committing to serve the broadest segments of our community and making the library a resource that people cannot imagine living without is important for its continued success. The library must not be afraid to find creative ways in which to make itself relevant to the broader community.

4. What do you perceive to be unmet needs in the community, and what do you see as the library's role in helping meet those needs?

We live in a diverse, relatively poor community. I am unsure how effective current efforts are in reaching certain segments of the population that are likely most in need of what the library has to offer. A library should be engaged in outreach to those least likely to come through the doors, especially families with school-age children. Certainly we all know that our educational institutions in town need improving. A library can function as a resource for families so that parents as well as children become invested in acquiring knowledge, a prerequisite to enhancing social well-being. A library complements the work of our schools and can foster a culture that places a higher value on personal education so that individuals and families - and in the process the community - can manage adeptly in a knowledge-based economy.

5. The library's user population is diverse. There is a vast difference between the modern library and the library of yesteryear. Please explain what a "modern library" means to you.

A modern library provides a safe space for ideas and information to be exchanged. We are better and more informed when we meet people from other walks of life: through books, visual media, in-person talks, or simply coming together socially. The modern world is complex and diverse. A modern library should acknowledge that complexity and diversity and provide the tools needed to navigate through this world with an open mind and a knowledgeable awareness of others.

6. Is your library doing a good job? Does it serve the community well? What can it do better?

I am impressed by what the library does with the limited resources it has. There surely are programs and events that currently are bringing information to the community beyond the stacks. But it is not enough to just offer programs – better outreach into the community to educate them on all that the library does is critical. A library is a unique resource in that it can often be more creative and agile than city government while leveraging resources that small non-profits may not have. I don't know how effective Blanchard Library has been on this score, but it would be important to me as a board member to promote its offerings to as broad a base of people as possible and invite community members to help shape these offerings.

7. Do you have a library card?

Yes I do!