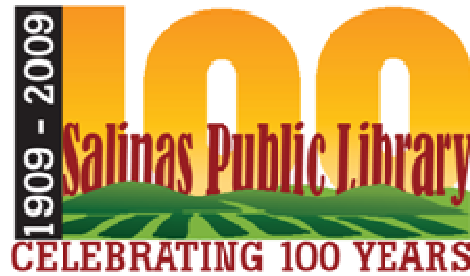


NEWS RELEASE

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Salinas Public Library Awarded *California of the Past Digital Storytelling Grant*

The Salinas Public Library has received confirmation from the California State Library that they have been awarded \$10,000 as part of a *California of the Past Digital Storytelling Grant*. This is a federal block grant funded by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and administered by the California State Library.

The implementation of a digital storytelling program through the Salinas Public Library's Digital Arts Lab, with a digital storytelling station provided by the grant, will enable community stories to be captured describing what life was like in both California and the local community. Historical information from the distant past, or recent past, will be created using a digital storytelling station which will be accessible to the public through the Web.

The Library will partner with the United Farm Workers (UFW) to begin compiling stories. Elizabeth Martinez, Library Director, expressed her pleasure in receiving the Grant "This grant will allow for collaborative work combining efforts of the Salinas Public Library and the UFW. We live in an area so rich in history. It behooves us to look for every opportunity to preserve it. We'll be building a great resource for immediate use and use by future generations."

Two Library staff will be trained on implementation of the grant in late September 2009.

For additional information, contact Maria Roddy: mariar@ci.salinass.ca.us, 758-7457. Yvonne Ricketts, Coordinator of the Parent Center, states, "The library is the perfect entity to acquire the Toy Lending Library collection. Access to the greater community will be increased through the library branches, bookmobile, and on-line catalog. The collection will extend the current library resources for children and enhance opportunities for literacy and family education, and community support for young children. We are very pleased to be in this collaborative endeavor with the City."

Elizabeth Martinez, Library Director, shares her view, “The Parent Center staff built a fine collection of toys that the community will now continue to have access to and enjoy. We’re delighted to work with staff there to transition the collection to the City.”

For additional information on the partnership, contact Don Gardner at the Library, 758-7455, or Yvonne Ricketts at the Parent Center, 796-6977.