

Project Name: Lower Lake Schoolhouse Museum & Events Center Seismic & Historic Restoration

Location: Lower Lake, CA

Total Project Funding Amount: \$3,500,000

Brief Project Description:

The Lower Lake Schoolhouse Museum and Events Center, constructed in the late 19th century and serving as the education center of the Lower Lake area of Lake County before transitioning to a museum and event center, houses invaluable artifacts and narratives of our local history on the first floor and a valued community events center on the second floor. However, the building is in drastic need of a structural seismic retrofit. The building is constructed of unreinforced masonry and suffered damage from both the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The County of Lake hired a historic restoration specialty company to evaluate the facility and also hired a structural engineer to prepare construction plans for the project.

The much-needed building modification will help prevent catastrophic structural failure as damaged and deteriorated building materials increase the risk of serious damage during an earthquake. Key structural recommendations include the installation of new shear walls, retrofitting of the building's foundation with new spread footings, and the restoration of exterior plaster and architectural woodwork. These efforts are designed to fortify the building against seismic events, ensuring its longevity and safety for future generations and safeguarding this invaluable Lake County cultural asset against future risks. The project will also restore other components of the building within its' historical context, enhancing the museum's ability to serve as a cornerstone of our cultural and educational landscape and restore the museums aesthetic appeal, as well as provide for energy efficiency upgrades.

The Lower Lake Schoolhouse Museum restoration project is more than a construction initiative; it is a call to honor our past, celebrate our achievements, and forge a legacy for those who follow and will ensure these pillars of our history stand tall for generations to come. The significant investment in Lake County underscores a collective resolve to honor our history, enrich our present, and inspire our future generations, and is a commitment to community pride, educational enrichment, and cultural vitality.

The project can be nearly "shovel ready" with adequate funding to fund final design and construction.

Amount Requested: \$ 3,500,000

Subcommittee Name: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Statement describing the federal nexus for your request: The seismic retrofit and historic restoration of the Lower Lake Schoolhouse Museum embodies a strong federal nexus by directly contributing to the preservation of national heritage, enhancing

educational opportunities, and improving community resilience to seismic events. This project aligns with federal priorities outlined by FEMA for disaster mitigation, the National Park Service for historic preservation, and the U.S. Department of Education for educational outreach. By safeguarding this historic structure, the project supports federal goals under the National Historic Preservation Act, ensuring that a significant part of our nation's cultural and educational legacy remains vibrant and accessible for future generations.

Copies of project documents: Historic restoration report available; structural engineering plans available

Supporting documents that demonstrate evidence of public support:

Lower Lake Historic School Preservation Committee (LLHSPC) is the non-profit organization providing community support for the Schoolhouse Museum.

Larson, E. (2007a, August 2). *Schoolhouse Museum's New Bell Tower finished*. Lake County News. <https://lakeconews.com/news/1384-schoolhouse-museums-new-bell-tower-finished>

Larson, E. (2007b, September 15). *Schoolhouse Museum's New Bell Tower celebrated*. Lake County News. <https://www.lakeconews.com/news/142-local-government/1795-schoolhouse-museums-new-bell-tower-celebrated>

Parkhill, C. (2018, August 23). *Museum Bell Tower Going up*. Bee. <https://www.record-bee.com/2007/01/10/museum-bell-tower-going-up/>