

January 2019

TO: Education Space Working Group
FROM: Science & Health Education Partnership (SEP)

The Science & Health Education Partnership (SEP) is pleased to submit this proposal for space for our Resource Center, offices that directly support its operation, and a shared teaching laboratory. SEP is currently housed in the Woods Building (100 Medical Center Way), a building that is slated for demolition.

SEP's space needs are unique because of our Resource Center. Our Resource Center is a lending library that is open to the entire UCSF community, all San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) teachers, and community groups working with SFUSD students. Each year, more than 1,800 people borrow materials from the Resource Center. It is a dynamic and lively space with multiple groups planning lessons together, exploring materials, and discussing classroom dynamics. It is not uncommon for a visitor to borrow many large items that are both heavy and awkward (for example, ten microscopes or several human organs in large liquid-filled, plastic containers). Thus, our Resource Center needs to be easily accessible to a loading zone.

The Parnassus Library has great potential to meet the needs of the Resource Center. The stacks located on the first floor are ideal for holding the approximately 4,000 items in our collection. There is access to an elevator and loading zone as well as parking nearby in the garage for longer visits. Inclusive in this Resource Center space, we request a work station for the staff member(s) working in the Resource Center, space for teachers and volunteers to plan lessons together, and access to a lab sink/counter space as some of our materials require preparation and maintenance and they cannot be co-mingled with food preparation surfaces. Given that we support science education in all of SF's public schools, the central location of the Parnassus campus is ideal. Additionally, being on Parnassus, instead of up the hill on Medical Center Way, we would be much more accessible to public transit.

SEP's Resource Center aligns well with the Library Education Space Principles. The Resource Center facilitates connections between UCSF, SF public schools, and other community programs focused on science and health education; the Center provides materials that inspire learning in all ages; we are very human-centered in our efforts and work hard to support and be responsive to UCSF volunteers and SFUSD teachers; and the Resource Center is staffed by a collaborative team. After school each day, the Center is full of conversations and learning. SEP and the Resource Center serve all programs and schools at UCSF, all SF public schools, and the general community.

Feedback gathered annually from SFUSD teachers and UCSF volunteers (students, staff, and faculty) highlights the Resource Center's critical role supporting science education:

The lessons that were suggested and provided by SEP staff and scientists were excellent. Hands-on activities with all materials packaged in the kits and ready for pick-up was extremely helpful. Materials provided were amazing - specimens, models - materials that the children would not usually have access to. – SFUSD teacher

I don't think that the SEP staff could have done any more than they did! The staff is always so helpful with lesson planning during our two-hour meeting at the Resource Center, and they continued to email throughout the semester; inquiring about our progress and offering their help and suggestions. Thank you for all of your support and guidance throughout the entire process. – SFUSD teacher

The staff at the Resource Center was phenomenal. They not only helped us brain storm lessons based on available resources, but also provided important pedagogical support when we expressed concerns about not knowing how to teach to a first-grade level. – UCSF volunteer

I found the planning meeting at the SEP Resource Center to be extremely helpful, as we could immediately see and test out the available resources and got great tips from the SEP staff. – UCSF volunteer

In addition to our Resource Center space, SEP needs offices for 12-15 staff with at least two private offices, a conference room that seats 15 people, and kitchen access. This request is similar to what we currently have in the Woods Building. We recognize that this is beyond the scope of the Library Education Space Principles; ideally, the SEP offices would be located on Parnassus as close as possible to the library. Such a set-up would allow us to continue our collaborative and rotating staffing model of the Resource Center as well as attend to visitors at unexpected times.

Finally, as planning for library space proceeds, we would like to highlight that there is currently a lack of teaching laboratory style classrooms on campus. The re-envisioned library space could also include a teaching lab – one that ideally would have reservation policies that are responsive to the needs of the entire UCSF community, including outreach programs. Specifically, we have a lot of difficulty reserving suitable rooms on campus for our intensive summer programs for teachers and SFUSD students – we need to reserve rooms all day or for several hours a day over contiguous blocks of days (for example 9-3 for two weeks).

We are excited about the possibility of housing the Resource Center in the Parnassus Library – we think it is a great fit for us as well as the Library. We would be able to leverage the existing stacks; it is a public space that would provide easy access to our materials; we already often use the Library's classroom and meeting spaces; and we can envision close collaborations with those already housed in the Library (for example, the Makers Lab and Kanbar Center).