



SHARKS FOUNDATION TO PROVIDE \$200,000 COMMUNITY ASSIST GRANT TO THE SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

GRANT FUNDS WILL BE USED TO CREATE SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY'S NEW WEE EXPLORE PLAYSPACE IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM OF THE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. LIBRARY

SAN JOSE SHARKS PLAYER MARIO FERRARO TO READ CHILDREN'S BOOKS TO KIDS IN ATTENDANCE AT SPECIAL GROUNDBREAKING EVENT

WHAT: [The Sharks Foundation \(@SharksCare\)](#) is kicking off its February Education Month campaign by providing its largest Community Assist Grant of the 2019-20 season with a \$200,000 donation to the [San José Public Library Foundation \(@SJPLF\)](#). Grant funds will be used to create [San Jose Public Library's \(@SanJoseLibrary\)](#) new [Wee Explore PlaySpace](#) in the Children's Room of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library. The PlaySpace will be a destination for children ages 0-5 to ignite their imagination and learn through open-ended play and exploration. The new PlaySpace will be free and open seven days a week for families to enjoy.

On Friday, January 31, the Sharks, families, and SJPL staff will gather to officially announce the project with a welcome address and check presentation by San Jose Sharks President **John Tortora** to City Librarian **Jill Bourne** and District 3 City Councilman **Raul Peralez**. The event will also feature story time and a question and answer session with Sharks player **Mario Ferraro**. Sharks loveable mascot **S.J. Sharkie** will also be onsite for photo opportunities. Guests will take home Sharks branded literacy-themed gifts.

The partnership between the San Jose Sharks, SJPLF, and SJPL began during the 2018-19 hockey season with the launch of the San Jose Sharks library card, which to date has been issued to more than 18,000 community members.

WHEN: **Friday, January 31, 2020, 4 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

4 p.m. – Welcome address and Check Presentation

4:10 p.m. – Story time and Questions and Answer session with San Jose Sharks Players

4:45 p.m. – Photos with S.J. Sharkie; Hockey-Related Arts and Crafts; Literacy-Themed Gift Distribution

WHERE: [Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, Children's Room \(1st Floor\), 150 E. San Fernando St., San Jose, CA, 95112](#)

WHO: Jill Bourne, San Jose City Librarian
John Tortora, San Jose Sharks President
Raul Peralez, San Jose District 3 City Councilman
Mario Ferraro, San Jose Sharks Player
S.J. Sharkie, Sharks Loveable Mascot

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ABOUT THE SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY:

San José Public Library (SJPL), located in the Capital of Silicon Valley, serves a culturally diverse population of more than one million in the country's 10th largest city. SJPL is one of the busiest library systems nationwide with nearly 7-million visits, annually. Award-winning staff strive to ensure library services reflect the city's rich diversity and that every library member's experience is exceptional. SJPL is recognized for its innovation and leadership and has received a number of recognitions and honors, including the 2011 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor for a library. For more information, visit www.sjpl.org.

ABOUT THE SAN JOSE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION:

The San José Public Library Foundation (SJPLF) was established in 1987 by a group of dedicated community volunteers who understood that a great library system needed more than public funding. Today, SJPLF provides advocacy, financial support, and leadership to our public libraries and educational programs throughout San José to create an educated, equitable, and engaged community. SJPLF's support of the San José Public Library helps to make many programs, resources, and services available to over 1 million adults, children, and youth in San José. As a partner of the San José Public Library, SJPLF is committed to keeping the Library thriving for generations to come to cultivate an educated, equitable, and engaged community where everyone has access to lifelong learning. For more information, please visit www.sjplf.org

ABOUT THE SHARKS FOUNDATION:

Established in 1994, the Sharks Foundation is dedicated to enhancing the lives of youth and families in the community with an emphasis in the areas of education, health and safety, and character development. Since inception, the Sharks Foundation has positively impacted the lives of individuals in the community through its contributions to local non-profit organizations.

To learn more about how the Sharks Foundation is helping underserved youth and families in need in the community, visit the Sharks Foundation's [website](#), view the [2018-19 Community Annual Report](#) or connect via [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [Twitter](#).