

## Response Summary:

### Q1. Applicant Information

<b>Name (first and last)</b>	Bridget Mabunga
<b>Email address</b>	bcmabunga@ucdavis.edu
<b>Phone number (xxx) xxx-xxxx</b>	530-754-8412
<b>Name of Department/ Unit/ Student Organization</b>	Academic Assistance and Tutoring Centers
<b>What is your role or position within the Department/ Unit/ Student Organization?</b>	Writing Specialist

### Q2. Event/ Program Information

<b>Name of the Event/ Program</b>	El Centro Readers Book Club
<b>Date(s) of Event (include the year)</b>	Fall 2025, Winter 2026 and Spring 2026
<b>Location</b>	Dutton Hall
<b>TOTAL event/ program budget (\$x,xxx)</b>	3650
<b>Funding request amount from COSAF (Student Programming Fund) (\$x,xxx)</b>	3650

### Q3. Please provide a detailed description and purpose of the event/ program.

Reading for pleasure has been linked to stress reduction and the development of stronger writing skills. Recently, there has been much discussion in higher education journalism about how college students don't read long-form and how they reference childhood when asked about their favorite books—because they don't get to read for pleasure anymore. AATC's Reading Coordinator has offered a book group in some capacity since 2018. Relying on that model as a foundation, El Centro readers began in Winter 2025 and is a collaboration between an AATC Writing Specialist and staff at CCLASS/El Centro. Its purpose is to encourage reading for pleasure and a sense of belonging. To connect readers to authors within the community, each quarter we read and discuss a book by a Chicana/Latina writer. El Centro markets the book club on their social media (4,000+ followers) to ensure as many students as possible learn about it. To make our book club accessible and reduce the cost barrier, each student who commits to attending all sessions receives a gifted copy of that quarter's book.

With the goals of connection, great conversation and fun, the facilitators create a quarterly reading schedule, and the group meets 3-4 times per quarter for 50 minutes to discuss pre-prepared questions. We provide snacks and guiding questions and encourage students to pose their own questions and draw our attention to specific passages they want to discuss. The readers in the room determine where the conversation goes.

### Q4. How will the requested funds be utilized to support this event/ program?

Books for all students and 1-3 facilitators  
 Snacks for each meeting  
 Food and drinks (connected in some way to the current book) for the final meeting  
 Swag with book club logo to create book club pride and belonging (e.g. pens, notebooks, t-shirts/hats, bookmarks)

**Q5. Please enter estimated attendance for the following groups.**

<b>UC Davis Students</b>	15-20 per quarter
<b>UC Davis Staff</b>	1-3
<b>Faculty</b>	0
<b>Other (please specify and include number)</b>	0

**Q31. If this event does not receive funding or receives only partial funding, how will the event be impacted?**

We received \$175 of AATC funds for our inaugural quarter, and El Centro purchased some books as well, but future funding is not guaranteed. It's unclear if we will be able to get department funding again.

If we do not receive Student Program funding, we might be able to offer a pared-down book club. However, we may only be able to provide books for a few students and will have to ask the rest to borrow or buy the book, which could create barriers to student interest. We will not be able to offer more than small snacks on occasion. We will not be able to create a reliable book club community, as it will be unclear whether we can offer the program quarterly. Successful book clubs rely on continuity to help members build relationships and a sense of belonging. Especially during the current state of politics in the US, it's critical for El Centro students to have a community they can rely on where they can read books by authors from similar backgrounds and connect to stories that reflect familiar, culturally relevant experiences and perspectives.

Here are our top priorities for funding, should we only receive partial funding:

First priority = \$1100 for books for all 3 quarters

Second priority \$500-1700 for swag

Third priority \$300-850 for food

**Q6. Who is the target audience of the event/ program? (e.g. students, program participants, users of a specific service)**

El Centro students, Chicax/ Latinx UC Davis students

**Q7. What program, activity, or service will be provided? (e.g. six-week training program, instructional class or activity, structured community program that exposes students to new ideas and experiences)**

Book club connection activities and discussions

**Q10. How does the event/ program provide services that are of growing interest to students? (if applicable)**

Students are looking for more ways to connect and build community, and our Chicax/Latinx students have often not been provided opportunities to read works by authors from their communities. This book club addresses both of these issues by bringing Chicax/Latinx students together to read and discuss books by authors from the larger

Chicax/Latinx community. Students in the inaugural book club have mentioned how meaningful it is to read a novel by a Latinx writer. These meetings are low-stakes, fun conversations where students get to connect with stories and each other in a meaningful, culturally-inclusive way.

**Q11. How does the event/ program foster diversity, equity, and inclusion? (if applicable)**

Focus on Chicax/Latinx authored-books gives students an opportunity to read stories from their own communities and an opportunity to reflect in conversation about their own identities in relation to the topics the books address. They get to see part of themselves or their experiences on the page.

Consistently bringing together Chicax/Latinx students in honest, reflective and fun conversations can foster a sense of belonging

**Q12. How does the event/ program provide crucial services to students? (if applicable)**

In a casual, co-curricular setting, it introduces students to literature that they may not have known about or had access to in traditional classrooms. This encourages lifelong reading and learning as well as personal growth. This exposure has the potential to set readers on a path to continue discovery of Chicax/Latinx authors and deepen their connection to the literature of their communities.

**Q32. How does the event/program benefit a large range of student population?**

We are now an HSI, so 25% of our population is Chicax/Latinx and if El Centro Readers is an ongoing book club, more students from the community can participate.

**Q13. Has your Department/ Unit/ Student Organization put on this event in the past?**

- Yes

**Q14. Please provide the following information on the previous event(s).**

<b>Event date(s) (Month(s)/ Date(s) / Year)</b>	inaugural meeting 2/4/25
<b>Location</b>	Dutton Hall
<b>Total attendance</b>	13

**Q15. How was the success of the event measured?**

Because we have met once (this week), I can only offer an anecdotal assessment. All but one student (who was out sick) showed up in pouring rain and fully participated in the connection activity. They shared many ideas, questions, perspectives and personal connections as we discussed the novel. Every student spoke at least once. It was clear that everyone was engaged in the conversation whether they were speaking or listening. Students wanted to stay after the end time to keep discussing the novel.

**Q33. If this is an annual event, is there a change to funding from previous years?**

- This is not a regular annual event

**Q34. If Yes, what is the change?**

I'm hoping to make this a quarterly event.

**Q35. If this is an annual event, is there a substantive change to the program agenda from previous years?**

- This is not a regular annual event

**Q36. If Yes, what is the change?**

I'm hoping to make this a quarterly event.

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**Embedded Data:**

N/A

**FUNDING AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM COSAF | 2025-26**

Name of Event/Program:

**El Centro Readers Book Club**

Name of Department/Unit/Student Organization:

**Academic Assistance and Tutoring Centers**

Program Date(s) in 2025-26:

Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters

ITEM		ESTIMATED COST	SUB-TOTAL
<b>FACILITY:</b> Room Rental, Room Set-Up, Equipment Rental, Audio/Video			
1	N/A	\$	
2		\$	
3		\$	
4		\$	
5		\$	
6		\$	\$ 0.00
<b>FOOD:</b> Refreshments, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (include estimated cost per person)			
7	Snacks for each meeting—4 meetings per quarter, 3 quarters, (estimated)	\$ 405.00	
8	Food and drinks for final meeting—3 times, once per quarter (estimated)	\$ 465.00	
9		\$	
10		\$	
11		\$	
12		\$	\$ 870.00
<b>PERFORMERS, GUEST SPEAKERS, HONORARIA</b>			
13	N/A	\$	
14		\$	
15		\$	
16		\$	
17		\$	
18		\$	\$ 0.00
<b>PUBLICITY/MARKETING:</b> Flyers, Posters, Advertising, Mailing, Printing			
19	N/A	\$	
20		\$	
21		\$	
22		\$	
23		\$	
24		\$	\$ 0.00
<b>SUPPLIES:</b> Decorations, Online Tools, Software, Licenses			
25	20 Books for students and staff per quarter (estimated)	\$ 1,080.00	
26	Book Club Swag: pens, bookmarks, highlighters, notebooks, t-shirts/hats	\$ 1,700.00	
27		\$	
28		\$	
29		\$	
30		\$	\$ 2,780.00
<b>TRAVEL:</b> Transportation, Parking, Lodging			
31	N/A	\$	
32		\$	
33		\$	
34		\$	
35		\$	
36		\$	\$ 0.00
		<b>Total Amount Requested from COSAF:</b>	<b>\$ 3,650.00</b>