



Los Angeles Maritime Institute

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CENTRAL SAN PEDRO NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSE GRANT APPLICATION ATTACHMENT:

Section II Project Description

5) The Los Angeles Maritime Institute's (LAMI) TopSail STEM program offers 6th through 12th-grade students from underserved communities in San Pedro and Los Angeles County the unique opportunity for experiential project-based learning at sea aboard the organization's educational sailing tall ships. LAMI, in partnership with such schools as Dana Middle School, San Pedro High School, Port of Los Angeles High School, Alliance Alice M. Baxter College-Ready High School, provides this extraordinary learning to a considerable number of students within the Central San Pedro Neighborhood boundaries. As part of the TopSail STEM curriculum, students learn about ocean systems and discover first hand the sea's oceanographic and biological complexity and its sensitivity to human-induced impacts. The discovery and awareness of the sea's microscopic world, and the microplastics and plankton within it, is critical in elevating the students' understanding and appreciation for this connection. Digital microscopes with their ability to project images of collected samples of microscopic organisms will alleviate the difficulty of microscope work on a moving vessel and offer a more shared experience for all participants. The opportunity to equip all of our tall ships with a pair of these microscopes will provide a deepened learning experience for the students in LAMI's TopSail STEM program.