San Francisco to be Home for “Manual for Civilization”

By Brian Shields

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SAN FRANCISCO (KRON) — A San Francisco-based foundation says it wants to assemble a “Manual for Civilization” so it’s collecting roughly 3000 books that you would most want to rebuild civilization.

The Long Now Foundation is best known for buying the top of a mountain in Nevada to construct a clock that will keep time for 10,000 years. Now they’re taking recommendations for the books to go into a library they’re building at Fort Mason in San Francisco.

Organizers say they are not predicting the end of the world or our current civilization anytime soon.

“While this may sound a little apocalyptic, we are not predicting any collapse of civilization,” the foundation said in an e-mail to members. “As it turns out, using this as an editing principle just seems to give us a very interesting collection of books.”
The books will be separated into four distinct categories so that they don’t get “a bunch to make fire.” Those include Great Books like Shakespeare and Plato, Mechanics of Knowledge includes technical manuals for getting things to work, Rigorous Science Fiction, Long and Futurism.

Guest contributors to the collection range from musician Brian Eno to sex columnist Violet Blue. Long Now says it hopes to have the final 3,000 books selected later this year.

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