



Board of Library Trustees

City of Arts & Innovation

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2019

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT AWARDS OF \$16,000 IN GRANT FUNDS FOR LEARNING TO GO AND CREATIVE THURSDAY PROJECTS

ISSUE:

Receive and file an update on the grant award of \$16,000 from the Library Services and Technology Act for Learning to Go and Creative Thursday projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file an update on the grant award of \$16,000 from the Library Services and Technology Act for Learning to Go and Creative Thursday projects.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Public Library actively pursues grant funding as an alternative funding source and/or supplement to City funds to enable unique program opportunities for the community. Grants offer valuable, unique opportunities for local jurisdictions to compete for funding sources available through, State, Federal, or other agencies to assist in covering the costs of selected projects.

Learning to Go Project:

On December 10, 2018, the Riverside Public Library submitted a grant application to the California State Library for the Learning to Go project for a total of \$10,000 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. The LSTA is the only federal program exclusively for libraries. It is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). State libraries use the funds to support statewide initiatives and also distribute the funds through subgrants or cooperative agreements to public, school, academic, research, and special libraries.

The Riverside Public Library currently has approximately 250 outdated storytime kits housed at the Main Library previously used by local preschools, childcare providers and other early

learning organizations in the Riverside community. These kits are currently unused as they are not easily able to circulate in their current storage, have many outdated elements that make them less attractive to users, are only accessible at the Main Library and are not marketed to the community.

Additionally, restricting circulation to only specific groups has not made them successful. With the funding from the Learning to Go grant opportunity, the storytime kits can be updated with new materials, redesigned early literacy components and manipulatives and make them available to everyone in the community. By adding these updated early literacy kits to the array of loanable items provided by the Riverside Public Library, the early literacy needs of the community may be met.

In the 2017 American Community One Year Survey it found that only 38.3% of children ages 3 to 4 are in school (https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_1YR_S1401&prodType=table accessed 11/29/18). By expanding access to the early literacy kits more children in the community will be exposed to these items and increase their school readiness prior to entering Kindergarten.

Early literacy components may include the following:

1. A guide on how to read with your children
2. A Kindergarten skills readiness flyer
3. A list of the top books to read to a child at different age ranges
4. Nursery rhymes and finger plays that match the theme of the books in the kits

These items would provide parents and providers information specific to the needs of children and encourage greater early literacy outcomes for children using these kits. Manipulatives would be thematic and educational based on the titles represented in the kits.

The grant term is January 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019.

Creative Thursdays:

On December 10, 2018, the Riverside Public Library submitted a grant application to the California State Library for the Creative Thursday project for a total of \$6,000 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. The LSTA is the only federal program exclusively for libraries. It is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). State libraries use the funds to support statewide initiatives and also distribute the funds through subgrants or cooperative agreements to public, school, academic, research, and special libraries.

The City of Riverside is called the “City of Arts and Innovation.” Arts are a central part to all that we as a City strive to achieve. Over the last year, stakeholders from many departments have been working together to ensure all facets of City life have an arts component be it through specific programs, public art or as merely a component of a larger event.

During the two-day Arts and Culture retreat held in March 2018, one of the identified needs was to have art programs at locations throughout the City. The Riverside Public Library is in a unique position to ensure art is seen at locations throughout the entire community. With eight library locations, the Library is in every City Ward serving a diverse set of customers in each space.

The Creative Thursday's grant opportunity is a perfect match with this increased citywide focus on arts in the community.

This funding would provide adult art activities at all eight (8) locations both during the grant period and after with supplies purchased for the grant. These programs would include visual arts like painting, fabric and sculpture, performing arts such as dance, theater and juggling, and even modern art including digital art.

The goal will be to expose adults in Riverside to a full array of art opportunities available in the community and as an opportunity to give local artists an opportunity to teach adult community members how to expand their artistic talents. Library staff and local artists will be tasked with teaching the classes. Following these classes, the expectation is that adult customers will become more familiar with the arts, have tangible items to take home with them that they have created and to increase art awareness in the community overall.

Partners identified for this project include the Riverside Arts Council, the Riverside Art Museum and the City of Riverside Arts and Cultural Affairs Division of the Community & Economic Development Department. With these partnerships we will also see a greater connection among the City and local artists.

The grant term is January 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

The Riverside Public Library received notification (attached) from the California State Library approving the grant application for the Learning to Go project for a total of \$10,000 in LTSA funds and Creative Thursday project for a total of \$6,000 in LTSA funds.

The City Council will hear this grant award on February 12, 2019, with staff recommendations to:

1. Accept \$10,000 grant from the California State Library, Library Services and Technology Act for the Learning to Go project;
2. Accept \$6,000 grant from the California State Library, Library Services and Technology Act for the Creative Thursday project;
3. Upon approval, authorize an increase in estimated revenues in account 9338800102-33410000 in the amount of \$6,000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount into Creative Thursday account 9338800102-44021000
4. Upon approval, authorize an increase in estimated revenues in account 9338700102-33410000 in the amount of \$10,000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount into Learning to Go project account 9338700102-44021000; and
5. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to make non-substantive changes and execute all grant related documents.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The grant award for \$10,000 will cover the costs associated with Learning to Go project. No matching City funds are required. Upon approval from the City Council, there will be an increase in estimated revenues in account 9338700102-33410000 in the amount of \$10,000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount into Learning to Go project account 9338700102-44021000.

The grant award for \$6,000 will cover the costs associated with Creative Thursday project. No matching City funds are required. Upon City Council approval, there will be an increase in estimated revenues account 9338800102-33410000 in the amount of \$6,000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount into Creative Thursday account 9338800102-44021000.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Library Director
Certified as to
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager

Attachment:

1. Grant Award Letter for the Learning to Go project
2. Grant Award Letter for the Creative Thursday project