City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: **BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES** **DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2025**

FROM: **RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY** **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: **INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

ISSUE:

Receive an informational report on the California Library Association's 2025 conference.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an informational on California Library Association's 2025 conference.

BACKGROUND:

The California Library Association (CLA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, established in 1895. Currently, CLA has over 1,600 Individual, Business, and Institutional members. Individual members include librarians, library employees, library students, friends group members, trustees, retirees as well as members of the public who wish to support California libraries. Annually, CLA provides professional development and advocacy support for its members and the California library community at large. The California Library Association is committed to helping library staff develop the knowledge and skills needed to work for 21st Century libraries, and to advance in the library field.

The Riverside Public Library is currently an institutional member of the California Library Association. In addition to participating in training opportunities throughout the year, the Library also sends a select number of staff each year to the annual CLA conference. Staff attend panel discussions on current library trends, learn about new products and services in the exhibit hall, and network with a diverse group of library staff and advocates from libraries all over California. In addition to individual professional development, staff also bring back ideas to share with staff and implement at the Library.

DISCUSSION:

The California Library Association annual conference this year will be at the Riverside Convention Center from October 23 to October 25. The theme is Telling our own Stories, with a focus on shaping the future of California Libraries. The library is honored to serve as the host city for this

year's conference and is committed to sending as many staff as possible to participate, while ensuring adequate staffing is maintained across all library locations; approximately twenty-one staff members are expected to attend.

In addition to attending, staff will be actively involved in local arrangements led by Assistant Library Director Herdina who is serving on the conference planning committee. Library and City staff will manage a Riverside information table at the conference where they will distribute promotional giveaways representing the City, the Library, and the Friends of the Library. Staff are also coordinating a variety of activities for conference attendees, including tours of the Main Library and local museums, self-guided walking tours of downtown murals, and a guided walk/run up Mt. Rubidoux.

Some of the sessions staff will be attending are shared below.

Day 1 Activities:
The first day of the conference is composed of three-hour super sessions, allowing for longer presentations and more in-depth discussions about important topics currently impacting libraries. A few that staff will attend are Advocacy 101: The Stories Behind Successful Advocacy, Memorable Messaging: Conversations That Make an Impact, and DIY Library History: Creating Your Library's Narrative Through Historical Writing and Policy Development.

Day 2 and 3 Activities:
The other two days of the conference provide opportunities to network, attend 45-minute panel discussions, meet with vendors in the exhibit hall, and view poster sessions. Staff will attend a variety of panels, including Creating Intentional Storytime Training, Once Upon a Library: How to Find Memorable Library Stories to Use for Marketing, Partnering for Progress: How Libraries and Workforce Development Are Transforming Lives, Dream Big: Creating Impactful Programs for Adults with Disabilities on a Limited Budget, and Small Steps, Lasting Impact: Advocating for Spanish-Speaking Patrons.

The cost for staff to attend is approximately $5,600, which covers registration fees and will be paid from the Library's operating budget in the amount of $4,865 and California Library Literacy Services grant in the amount of $735.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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