



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: AUGUST 28, 2017

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: LIBRARY TEAM MEMBER FEATURED IN BOOK "THIS IS WHAT A LIBRARIAN LOOKS LIKE: A CELEBRATION OF LIBRARIES, COMMUNITIES, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION"

ISSUE:

The issue for the Board of Library Trustees consideration is to receive a report on the book, "This is What a Librarian Looks Like: A Celebration of Libraries, Communities, and Access to Information" featuring Library team member Dedria Tillett.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive a report on the book, "This is What a Librarian Looks Like: A Celebration of Libraries, Communities, and Access to Information" featuring Library team member Dedria Tillett.

BACKGROUND:

In January 2014, photographer Kyle Cassidy attended the American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, PA, to photograph librarians and subsequently published a photo essay on Slate.com titled "This is What a Librarian Looks Like". The essay showcased a number of portraits and a tribute to librarians.

Black Dog & Leventhal published the book and released it on May 16, 2017. The book contains photographs and personal thoughts on what it means to be a librarian today from male and female librarians of all ages, ethnicities, backgrounds, and personalities. In addition to the personal stories, the book contains short essays about librarians written by famous writers, journalists and contributors.

DISCUSSION:

Library Assistant Dedria Tillett (then employed as a Youth Services Library Clerk at Upland Public Library) is among those featured in the book. While in attendance at the ALA Midwinter meeting, Dedria was photographed by Kyle Cassidy and quoted as saying, "I believe that the biggest challenge to libraries is support from our community and especially our government leaders. The most important thing we provide is the freedom to gain knowledge. Books inspired

me to become a librarian—truly, to share my love of them with others, like-minded or otherwise.”

Dedria is a walking, talking, infectious ray of sunshine who consistently provides the absolute best in superior customer service. Having served on the Inland Library System’s Young Adult Services Committee and having assisted with coordination of the Annual Summer Reading Performer’s Showcase, Ms. Tillett is a leader among her peers and a rising star on the Riverside Public Library team.

This is What a Librarian Looks Like: A Celebration of Libraries, Communities, and Access to Information is part of the Main Library materials collection and is available for check out through all Riverside Public Library locations.



This Is What a Librarian Looks Like

A CELEBRATION OF LIBRARIES, COMMUNITIES, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

KYLE CASSIDY | with thoughts on libraries from Neil Gaiman, George R. R. Martin, Nancy Pearl, Cory Doctorow, Jude Deveraux, Amy Dickinson, Amanda Palmer, Samira Ahmed, Sara Farizan, Jeff VanderMeer, John Scalzi, and more



DEDRIA TILLETT

I believe that the biggest challenge to libraries is support from our community and especially our government leaders. The most important thing we provide is the freedom to gain knowledge. Books inspired me to become a librarian—truly, to share my love of them with others, like-minded or otherwise.

Youth Services Library Clerk
UPLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

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FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Tonya Kennon, Library Director

Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager