



City of Arts & Innovation

# Board of Library Trustees

**TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES** **DATE: NOVEMBER 13, 2023**  
**FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY** **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL REPORT ON THE CALIFORNIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL 2023 CONFERENCE**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive an informational report on the California Library Association's 2023 conference.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an informational on California Library Association's 2023 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 held their annual conference this year in Sacramento, CA., from June 1 through June 3, 2023. The theme was *Sustaining our People, Planet, and Performance into the Future*, with a focus on literacy resources and services. Riverside Public

Library staff were invited to submit interest statements to Erin Christmas, Library Director, prior to registration and eight were selected to attend, including the adult and family literacy staff. Eight library employees were selected to attend the annual conference including Assistant Library Director, Jessica Herdina, Librarian Charmaine Mendez, Orange Terrace Library Supervisor Hayden Birkett, SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library Supervisor Yesenia Littlefield, Library Associates Karen Flores, Melissa Matrix and Fredi Morales, and Library Assistant Eva Contreras.

Sessions staff attended are shared below.

#### *Day 1 Activities:*

The activities included three-hour super sessions, allowing for longer presentations and more in-depth discussions about important topics currently impacting libraries. A few that staff attended were Book Banners, Display Disruptors, and Drag Queen Storytime Protestors: How to Respond to Content Challenges; Working with English Language Learners; Producing Results Through Sustainable Library Advocacy; and Bilingual Storytime 102: Tips, Tricks, and Técnicas for Translating Songs and Rhymes.

#### *Day 2 and 3 Activities:*

The conference provided opportunities to network, attend 45-minute panel discussions, meet with vendors in the exhibit hall, and view poster sessions. Staff attended a variety of panels, including Community Service and Rules of Conduct: Developing Policies and Procedures That Support Staff; How to Create, Update and Support and Inclusive Volunteer Program; It Could Never Happen Here: Creating an Active Shooter Plan for Your Library; Revamping your California Library Literacy Services Tutor Training; and What's New in Children's Books.

In addition to attending the conference, Librarian Charmaine Mendez also presented on a panel discussion called Literacy for Newbies: Developing Sustainable Programs – How to Step In, Start Over, or Build a New Grant Funded Program. She worked with literacy staff from three other Inland Empire library systems to create a presentation for new literacy coordinators focused on tools and best practices to keep literacy programs running smoothly.

Library staff returned from CLA with creative ideas and are working with their Supervisors to determine ways to incorporate what they learned to enhance programming and services.

The costs for staff to attend was approximately \$8,060 which covered registration fees and travel and was paid from the Library's operating budget in the amount of \$4,570 and California Library Literacy Services grant in the amount of \$3,490. Additionally, free registration was offered to several staff to offset costs.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item contributes to **Strategic Priority No. 1 Arts, Culture & Recreation** and **Goal No. 1.1 - Strengthen Riverside's portfolio of arts, culture, recreation, senior and lifelong learning programs and amenities through expanded community partnerships, shared use opportunities and fund development.**

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – This informational report for staff focuses on literacy resources and services for inclusive community engagement.

2. **Equity** – This informational report provides staff the opportunity to participate in a variety of panels and network with peers and to be able develop the knowledge and skills needed to work for 21st Century libraries and practice what was learned to members of the community for equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – There were no fiscal impacts to the General Fund with this information report. The Riverside Public Library is a prudent steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City's financial resources while providing quality public services to all.
4. **Innovation** – This information report on Riverside Public Library staff attending the California Library Association's 2023 conference report is timely in meeting the community's changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – This informational report on Riverside Public Library staff attending the California Library Association's 2023 conference relates to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City's capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times alike.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by:                      Jessica Herdina, Assistant Library Director