



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: APRIL 14, 2025

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: ANNUAL SERVING WITH A PURPOSE CONFERENCE

ISSUE:

Receive and file a report on the annual Serving with a Purpose Conference on May 15, 2025, at the Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file this report on the annual Serving with a Purpose Conference on May 15, 2025, at the Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA.

BACKGROUND:

On May 22, 2013, Serving with a Purpose held its first conference which was designed exclusively for library advocates and board members and the staff that support them. Serving with a Purpose mission is to provide relevant training, resources and inspiration to the board members of Friends of the Library, Foundations and Library Trustees and Commissioners while having fun too.

DISCUSSION:

The annual Serving with a Purpose Conference will be held on May 15, 2025, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ontario Convention Center. The 2025 theme is United in Purpose: Cultivating Belonging, Trust, and a Shared Vision.

Historically, representatives from Library staff, the Board of Library Trustees, Library Foundation and Friends of the Library have attended this event, which provides programs, and a forum for discussion on issues directly related to supporting public library services. The conference includes a continental breakfast, sit-down catered lunch, and conference materials.

The keynote speaker at this year's conference is Geoffrey L. Cohen. Cohen is a Professor of Psychology and the James G. March Professor of Organizational Studies in Education and Business at Stanford University. He is a social psychologist by training and received his PhD at Stanford and BA at Cornell. Professor Cohen's research examines the processes that shape

people's sense of belonging and self-concept, and the role that these processes play in our lives and our organizations.

Also attending the conference is Author William Kent Krueger. Krueger writes a mystery series set in the north woods of Minnesota. His last thirteen novels were all New York Times bestsellers.

There will be popular breakout sessions and much more.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 5 *High Performing Government* and Goal 5.3 - Enhance communication and collaboration with community members to improve transparency, build public trust, and encourage shared decision-making.

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

1. **Community Trust** – The informational report on Serving with a Purpose ensures that the Board is transparent and makes decisions based on sound policy, inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards and Commissions, and timely and reliable information.
2. **Equity** – This item supports equity in the community through engagement of the public and inviting Trustees, Foundations, staff and anyone interested in participating in the conference.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – The informational report on Serving with a Purpose ensures that the public is informed about how the City of Riverside is a prudent steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City's financial resources while providing quality public services.
4. **Innovation** – The informational report on Serving with a Purpose conference explores what the best practices, the behind-the scenes moves and how to's of sustaining enthusiasm and on point work.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The informational report on Serving with a Purpose assist in exploring building and leading for libraries to last another 100 years.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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