



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Board of Library Trustees

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**TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES** **DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2021**  
**FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY** **WARD: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT GRANT FUNDING FOR LIBRARY PROJECTS**

## **ISSUE:**

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an update on library projects that are funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an update on library projects that are funded by the American rescued Plan Act.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act to facilitate the recovery from the devastating economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The American Rescue Plan Act established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, which provides a combined \$350 billion in assistance to eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to assist in the economic and health recovery by providing resources to address impacts resulting from the crisis.

The American Rescue Plan Act established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Fiscal Recovery Funds) to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. The Secretary of Treasury issued the Interim Final Rule to implement the Fiscal Recovery Funds. These funds may be used to respond to pandemic response needs including mitigation and prevention, support to communities and populations most impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, and fill revenue shortfalls. The Fiscal Recovery Funds provide flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs and invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading their water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Recipients may use funding to:

1. Support public health expenditures: address broad range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources.

2. Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency: delivering assistance to workers and families, supporting small businesses, expediting tourism recovery efforts to include travel and hospitality sector, and rebuilding public sector capacity.
3. Replace public sector revenue loss.
4. Serving the hardest-hit communities and families: addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health, investments in housing and neighborhoods, addressing educational disparities, and promoting healthy childhood environments.
5. Provide premium pay for essential workers.
6. Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments that are facing budget shortfalls may use Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid reduction of government services. Treasury's Interim Final Rule establishes a methodology that can be used to calculate lost revenue. This calculation considers revenue expected in the absence of the crisis compared to actual revenue.

The City of Riverside will receive Fiscal Recovery Funds in two installments for a total amount of \$73,535,189. The first allocation in the amount of \$36,767,594 was received in June 2021, and the City will receive the second allocation 12 months later in June 2022 in the amount of \$36,767,594.

### **DISCUSSION:**

On November 9, 2021, the City Council approved the proposed American Rescue Plan Act Expenditure Plan for the first allocation of grant funds in the amount of \$36,767,594; authorized an increase in revenue and offsetting expenditures in the amount of \$36,767,594, to accounts to be established by the Finance Department; Granted the City Manager, or his designee, the flexibility to reallocate funds from the proposed Expenditure Plan to other similar and eligible uses should feasibility or timeliness concerns arise; and Authorized the City Manager, or his designee, to negotiate and execute all agreements, contracts and documents related to the implementation of the approved Expenditure Plan for the American Rescue Plan Act funding, including making minor non-substantive change.

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act Expenditure Plan, the following four Library specific projects that provide services to disproportionately impacted communities were approved for funding:

<b>Program Title</b>	<b>Fund Appropriation</b>
Safe @ Your Library	\$185,000
Sparkling Knowledge Retention	\$500,000
Your Library in Your Neighborhood	\$345,000
Career Connection Program	\$500,000
<b>Total Library Program Fund Appropriation</b>	<b>\$1,530,000</b>

### Safe @ Your Library

Includes a host of mitigation efforts to reduce spread of COVID-19 and other illness, ability to limit access to materials that may have potential hazards, safer drinking fountains for community members at library and enhanced security and safety through clean exteriors and interiors of each library location. Modifications include the addition of lockable book drops, water bottle filling stations, sanitizing kits for families, and an app-based circulation feature for the community to use to checkout materials with their own digital devices.

### Sparkling Knowledge Retention

The retention program will provide new and continued access to resources to help those 0-12 who have experienced loss in literacy/early learning/academic skills due to COVID-19. Opportunities will be offered on site at all eight library locations, via a new Library to You outreach vehicle, and virtually through digital resources. Funds will pay for: early learning tablets, HelpNow! online tutoring, story time and phonics kits for checkout, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) related toys and coding kits for checkout, book giveaways, an additional virtual learning resource, and new outreach van. Success would be increased school readiness skills for children 0-5, increased school achievement for children 5-12. Program usage will be measured by number of customer checkouts, number of visitors to outreach van, and number of virtual resource sessions.

### Your Library in Your Neighborhood

This community focused program will make library services more accessible to each resident and ensure a contact-less pickup of materials through installation of six book lockers positioned at various locations throughout Riverside at Parks, Community/Senior Centers, select library locations, and other strategic locations. Customers will be able to request library books to be picked up at any of the lockers throughout the City, staff will deliver the items, and once notified customers will be able to pick up their items at their convenience, without having staff interaction. This will increase access to the Library in a safe way that limits the spread of COVID-19 or other illness.

### Career Connection

Focused on the workforce, this program will fund eight Career Hubs in all library locations that encourage workforce development, job seeking, and skill building for those that are transitioning employment opportunities due to COVID-19. These will be mindful of the emergence of remote workers and the need for space that is comfortable to work. Expanding on successful areas already funded through CARES Act; funds will pay for: Laptop kiosks at six locations with minimal furniture needs, free printing for all customers, 3D printers, monthly workshops in Spanish, ASL and English, and books/e-resources. The footprint of the Career Connection is two-fold, these spaces will provide increased employment opportunities and success in finding work for community members who lost work during COVID-19 or need to transition to new employment. Secondly, the Career Connection program will provide a serene location for those needing to work remotely which allows them to achieve work related goals. Success will be measured by number of computer sessions, attendance at classes, usage of the space, etc.

Library supervisors have been divided into pairs with each group leading one of the four specific projects. Supervisors will be supported by Library Administration in purchasing of items, implementation of programs, tracking of expenditures and results, and ensuring longtime success of these projects.

The second allocation of funds will be considered by City Council in calendar year 2022.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 1 *Arts, Culture & Recreation* and Goal 1.5 Support programs and amenities to further develop literacy, health, and education of children, youth and seniors throughout the community.

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

1. **Community Trust** – Riverside is committed to providing a transparent process and gather community input to support how the American Rescue Plan Act funds will be used. To assist with these efforts, the City developed an American Rescue Plan Act webpage that includes program information, a public survey and dedicated email address.
2. **Equity** – Riverside is supportive of the ongoing evaluation of potential programs and projects that ensure a response to disproportionately impacted groups and the exacerbation of health inequities along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – This item ensures fiscal responsibility of American Rescue Plan Act funds by identifying a need or negative impact and identifying how the program/project addresses the identified need.
4. **Innovation** – Riverside is committed to responding to the community's changing needs and preparing for the future through developing American Rescue Plan Act funded programs/projects that build on collaborative partnerships.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – This item ensures sustainability through ongoing evaluation of projects and programs to allow for adaptation to meet the current COVID-19 public health emergency and future needs ensuring the City's capacity to persevere, adapt and grow.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The fiscal impact is the first allocation of grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Expenditure Plan funds in the amount of \$1,530,000 for four Library specific projects as described.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Library Director  
Approved by: Rafael Guzman, Assistant City Manager

Attachment: Presentation