



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: JANUARY 10, 2022

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

ISSUE:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive a presentation on 1,000 Books before Kindergarten.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive a presentation on 1,000 Books before Kindergarten.

BACKGROUND:

On March 23, 2020, the Board of Library Trustees received and filed a report on the 2019 Annual Campaign of the Riverside Public Library Foundation entitled "Riverside Kids Read." The annual campaign was successful and raise \$37,000 for the Library.

On March 23, 2021, the Riverside City Council approved the donation from the Riverside Public Library Foundation in the amount of \$37,000 for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program; and authorized the Chief Financial Officer, or his designee, to record an increase in estimated revenues and expenditures in the same amount as the donation into Grants and Restricted Programs Fund Library Gift & Trust account to pay for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program.

Research shows that reading together is one of the best ways for children to build their vocabularies, increase social and emotional development, learn key literacy skills, and helps to guide them towards a lifelong love of reading. By reading one book each day together for a year, a child will have read 365 books. If a child reads three books a day for one year, a child will have read 1,095 books.

DISCUSSION:

On October 5, 2021, the Riverside Public Library launched the initiative of 1,000 Books before Kindergarten. The goal is to read 1,000 books with children before they reach kindergarten (ages 0-5). The 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program is a free and self-placed early literacy program. Funding for this initiative is through the Riverside Public Library Foundation.

Any child from birth to kindergarten can participate in the program. Parents can register their child on Beanstack, a reading challenge software and mobile app, on the Library from October 5 to December 31, 2022. Beanstack will track all reading progress.

Parents can read with their child any books. Library books, books they have at home, books with no words, e-books, books for storytime, or even the same book over and over again! The most important part is reading aloud together.

Along the road to reaching the 1,000 book goal children can earn prizes. Upon signing up, parents can come to the library and pick up a free magnet and sticker chart. At every 100 books read, children can earn their sticker, which they can place on their sticker chart. Prizes will also be awarded at 100, 300, 500, 700, 900, and 1,000 books read.

A library card is not needed to participate.

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 report is transparent in providing the 1,000 Book before Kindergarten staff report for inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards and Commissions, and timely reliable information. This activity and action by the City serve the public interest, benefit the City's diverse populations, and result in greater public good.
2. **Equity** – The 1,000 Books before Kindergarten staff report at the Board of Library Trustees in-person meeting and virtually provide members of the community equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – There are no public funds used for 1,000 Books before Kindergarten program incentives. 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** – The 1,000 Books before Kindergarten staff report is timely in meeting the community's changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – The 1,000 Books before Kindergarten staff report 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 the 1,000 Books before Kindergarten.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Library Director
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Attachment: Presentation