



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES **DATE: AUGUST 8, 2022**

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: GRANT AWARD FROM CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY OF \$5,000 FOR PARK PASS PROGRAM THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the grant award from the California State Library for Park Pass Program Project in the amount of \$5,000 for the Library to purchase materials.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an update on the grant award from the California State Library for Park Pass Program Project in the amount of \$5,000 for the Library to purchase materials.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Public Library actively pursues grant funding as an alternative funding source and/or supplement to City funds to enable the purchase of library materials to enhance its collection for use by the public. Grants offer valuable, unique opportunities for local jurisdictions to compete for funding sources available through, State, Federal, or other agencies to assist in covering the costs of select projects.

Through a partnership with the California State Parks, the California State Library Parks Pass program provides 5,000 free vehicle-day use passes for circulation (for a minimum of three passes per outlet, including mobile libraries) at all branches of public libraries in California. As part of a three-year pilot program, the new Library Pass programs was launched in April 2022. The passes are a physical hangtag and are valid at over 200 parks for once car's access.

A grant program, which closed on May 4, 2022, funded libraries in the creation of outreach and programming to support park access equity and generate positive measurable impacts in the areas of health, natural resource stewardship, and historical and cultural connections.

Research shows that spending time in green space such as parks is associated with better mental and physical health measures. California has a wealth of state parks – your library is most likely within driving distance of one. However, parks are not accessed equitably. Proximity, lack of transportation, lack of exposure to parks/nature/outdoors activities, not feeling welcomed

(ie language barriers), perceived safety of parks, and other issues are all aspects of park access inequity. Libraries are a clear partner to support their communities in accessing parks now that the financial barrier of day-use fees have been removed.

DISCUSSION:

On June 20, 2022, the Riverside Public Library was awarded the Park Pass Program Grant project for a total of \$5,000 in California State Library funds (Attachment 1). With these funds the Riverside Public Library (RPL) will purchase and create explorer backpacks to circulate at all library locations. Each explorer backpack will include locally printed park guides in both English and Spanish, trail maps, and information about the California Citrus State Historic Park. They will also include a family hiking book/nature book in English or Spanish, a pair of children's binoculars, a compass, and a magnifying glass. Explorer backpacks will strengthen the relationship between community members and the outdoors as it will provide all items needed to have a great day at the park. They will encourage families to gather outside together, learn about existing local wildlife and fauna, and provide the means to fully utilize the local State Park.

The Project term is July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Park Pass Program will be offered to the Riverside Public Library customers. The Park Pass Program allows customers to check out a Park Pass for 1-3 weeks.

Reporting guidelines: The Riverside Public Library will provide mid-project financial and narrative reports on January 31, 2023, and final financial and narrative report by June 30, 2023.

In accordance with the City Grant Administration Policy 01.006.00, the Department Director evaluated the award to determine the benefit to the customers of the City's Library, long and short-term financial implications, feasibility and compatibility with existing City priorities/goals and services and determined the community and City would benefit with accepting this grant.

On July 19, 2022, the City Council is scheduled to accept the grant award.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The 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 item aligns with Community Trust through engaging the Board of Library Trustees in Library partnerships and programming.
2. **Equity** – Through grant programming, the Library is better equipped to distribute resources to the community ensuring all members of the public have access to programming.

3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Through the use of grant funded partnerships, the Library is able to expand programming opportunities and offer diverse programming resources.
4. **Innovation** - This item aligns with Innovation through the establishment of current and future partnerships.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Establishing community partnerships ensures Library resources remain resilient through supplemental funding sources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this action is \$5,000, upon approval of the City Council on July 19, 2022.

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