



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2024

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE READS PROGRAM 2024

ISSUE:

Receive an informational report on the 2024 Riverside Reads program at the Riverside Public Library.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an informational update on the 2024 Riverside Reads program at the Riverside Public Library.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Reads program at the Riverside Public Library is an annual program that provides an opportunity for the community to have a shared reading experience and to participate in engaging discussions. The book title is selected based on topics that may be of social or historical significance to the community. In addition to print and digital copies that can be checked out from the library, free copies of the book are also available at all library locations.

DISCUSSION:

The book selected for Riverside Reads 2024 is *There There* by Tommy Orange, an award-winning novel that follows twelve characters from Native communities as they travel to the Big Oakland Powwow. "A contemporary classic, this astonishing literary debut places Native American voices front and center" (National Public Radio). Free copies of the book will be available at all eight library locations starting mid-February, while supplies last.

Programming will celebrate the vibrancy of local indigenous cultures by highlighting their history, artwork, and literature. Events will begin in March with a kick-off panel discussion at the Main Library featuring a Professor of American Indian Affairs from UC Riverside and representatives from Sherman Indian High School and the Museum of Riverside. There will also be a screening of the documentary film *These are Not "Stories": American Indian Boarding Schools in Southern California*.

Scheduled throughout March and April will be community book discussions, an open mic teen showcase featuring students from Sherman Indian High School sharing their art and songs, and a local author showcase in collaboration with Inlandia.

The 2024 Riverside Reads program will be supported by funds from the Riverside Public Library Foundation. Prior to this meeting, a staff report was submitted for the Board of Library Trustees to accept and recommend that the City Council approve the gift fund donations from December 2023 in the amount of \$3,000 from Riverside Public Library Foundation for the Riverside Reads 2024 program. In the past, the California State Library has provided opportunities to fund the program through their Book to Action grant; however, the grant opportunity was not made available this year.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 1 Arts, Culture & Recreation: Provide diverse community experiences and personal enrichment opportunities for people of all ages and Goal 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** – Riverside is transparent and makes decisions based on sound policy, inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards & Commissions, and timely and reliable information. Activities and actions by the City serve the public interest, benefit the City's diverse populations, and result in greater public good.
2. **Equity** – Riverside is supportive of the City's racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, identity, geographic, and other attributes of diversity and is committed to advancing the fairness of treatment, recognition of rights, and equitable distribution of services to ensure every member of the community has equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Riverside 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** – Riverside is inventive and timely in meeting the community's changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Riverside is committed 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 informational report.

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