



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Board of Library Trustees

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**TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES** **DATE: JULY 27, 2015**  
**FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY** **ITEM NO: 5**  
**SUBJECT: MONTHLY UPDATE OF LIBRARY PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS**  
**ISSUE:**

Receive an update on Riverside Public Library programs, operations and special projects.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Trustees receive this report.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Personnel**

The department continues to work with Human Resources to fill staff vacancies. In May 2015 the department welcomed new staff members Jaime Heller, part time Library Assistant, and Joseph Garcia, full time Library Assistant. Jamie Mittan, full time Library Associate, joined our team this month. New staff receives training at Main Library before being assigned to a library location. Pending recruitments include Sr. Office Specialist (1 Full Time), Library Technician (3 Full Time), and Librarian (1 Full Time).

**Programs and Operations**

*Main Library Teen Room*

The Main Library currently has defined spaces for young children, families, and adults, but has no space specifically designed for teens. In 2014, the Riverside Public Library Foundation ("Foundation") applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$80,000 from the ER Carpenter Foundation for the purpose of funding and furnishing a teen space at the Main Library. On December 15, 2014, the Foundation donated the funds received from the ER Carpenter Foundation to the Library.

The teen space will be created in an existing underutilized room at the Main Library through the purchase of comfortable and flexible furnishings that can be moved with ease as the needs for this population evolve or the Library rehabilitation project commences. The new teen space will contribute to teens' sense of belonging and provide a much-needed area for teens to gather, collaborate and learn.

The furniture plan (Attachment "A") and purchase has been completed and submitted for City Council approval.

## *Summer Reading Program*

The Library's Summer Reading Program kicks off June 13<sup>th</sup> and runs through August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Summer Reading Program encourages children, teens, and adults to set reading goals, engage in activities that extend the reading experience, and connect with librarians who can help guide their reading selections.

The Summer Reading Program helps close the achievement gap. The US Department of Education notes that, "rich, engaging and free educational activities like summer reading programs are excellent tools to address the achievement gap. More than half of the achievement gap between lower and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities".

This year's theme, Read to the Rhythm, celebrates and encourages an interest in Music and the Arts. The program provides numerous opportunities for learning about musicians, musical instruments, and local opportunities to engage with music and the arts. Participants earn cool prizes for every five hours or five books read ("Attachment B"). Why five? Reading just five books over the summer can prevent summer learning loss.

The Library extends appreciation to the following program sponsors: Riverside Public Library Foundation, Friends of the Riverside Public Library, City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, City of Riverside Public Utilities, County of Riverside Cove Waterpark, A Foundation for Kids, Adams Motorsports Park, Provident Bank, Roller City 2001, Shakey's Pizza Parlor, Starbucks, Farrell's Ice Cream Parlour & Restaurant, Rubios, and Chick-Fil-A.

## *Lunch at the Library*

The Library is excited to again partner with The California Summer Meal Coalition (CSMC) and California Library Association (CLA) on its Lunch @ the Library program.

Lunch at the Library helps keep California's kids healthy, fed, and engaged during the summer months when school is out. For many children the stability and nutrition offered by the lunches they receive at school ends when school lets out for the summer break. Summer meal programs help fill the gap while combating childhood hunger and obesity.

CSMC and CLA are working with libraries across California to offer summer meals and programming designed to provide nourishment and to help prevent summer learning loss for children and teens.

Libraries are community spaces that are natural spaces for this activity. By serving meals and offering complementary literacy programs during the summer, our program is feeding children and engaging families with library services. Meal service is provided in partnership with the Riverside Unified School District. There is no cost to the Library for this program.

Lunch at the Library is offered free of charge to youth ages 18 and under. The program will be held at the Main and Eastside libraries. Program dates are June 15<sup>th</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>. Meal service is provided Monday through Friday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and is first come, first served.

The Library received a donation of 3,312 dry meals from Feeding Children Everywhere for distribution to families during the Lunch at the Library program. Feeding Children Everywhere

is a social charity that empowers and mobilizes people to assemble and distribute healthy meals for hungry children.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Attachments: A. Main Library Teen Room Furniture Plan  
B. Children and Teen Summer Reading Logs