



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: JULY 25, 2016

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY'S "CALIFORNIA LISTENS" DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROJECT UPDATE

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the California State Library's "California Listens" Digital Storytelling Project.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an update on the California State Library's "California Listens" Digital Storytelling Project.

BACKGROUND:

The California State Library's "California Listens" project is a new initiative to assist a select group of California public libraries in creating digital stories as part of a statewide collection on what it means to be Californian. The stories will be part of a larger campaign to encourage libraries to create story-related programming for their communities.

The project will be coordinated and implemented by Berkeley's StoryCenter. StoryCenter, formerly known as the Center for Digital Storytelling, invented the field of digital storytelling in the early 1990s, and has brought its methods and practices to thousands of institutions and organizations in 48 countries and all 50 United States. Based on their work with libraries across the country, they have custom-designed a program of sustainable story-based workshops and activities for public libraries.

The workshop approach is highly participatory and focuses on writing and recording a short narration script and then creating a basic visual treatment in an easy-to-use video editor (wevideo.com) with each participant. The process emphasizes elegance and simplicity. StoryCenter work samples can be accessed via their YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/CenterOfTheStory>). StoryCenter's work is based on deeply held ethical principles, cultural humility, and sensitivity to the experience of the storytellers in creating their stories, as well as how the stories will be shared.

DISCUSSION:

The Riverside Public Library has been selected as one of 10 libraries across the state to participate in this summer's program. As part of this project, StoryCenter will bring a 2-day workshop to the Main Library on Wednesday, August 17 and Thursday, August 18, 2016, from

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., for up to 10 members of our community. Participants will learn about digital storytelling and each produce a 2-4 minute digital story. Participants will receive a digital copy of their story, the stories will be made available to our library and will become part of a collection of stories hosted by the California State Library.

All community members over the age of 18 may submit an online application of interest (<https://www.storycenter.org/cal-listens-riverside>). The Library is especially seeking participants from the deaf community, veterans and those with stories connected to Riverside's Medal of Honor recipients, the Harada Family and the Gage Canal.

Library staff will receive training and ongoing technical assistance to develop and continue digital storytelling programming. The Library will also receive customized equipment for use in creating, editing, and recording digital stories.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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