



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: AUGUST 22, 2016

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING ARTS AND MATH) PROGRAM USES LITTLEBITS AT STRATTON COMMUNITY CENTER – 2008 MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD.

ISSUE:

Consideration to receive and file this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file this report.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Public Library and Parks, Recreation and Community Services departments collaborated with staff and volunteers to create the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering Arts and Math) Program. The STEAM Program utilized LittleBits, which are small electronic, magnetic components, to help teach kids and teens the concepts of simple electrical circuits. LittleBits are easy-to-use electronic building blocks that empower the user to invent anything, from remote controlled car, to a smart home device. The Bits snap together with magnets only and without the need for soldering, wiring, and programming. LittleBits can be combined for fun or to prototype the next ground breaking invention.

On July 6, 2016, Library and Parks staff held a LittleBits programming event at Stratton Community Center for youth from the ages of 8 to 15 to participate in various hands on activities ranging from creating a power source for a ferris wheel, to designing a voice, or a manually actuated bubble blower. There were 27 youth that attended. The photographs below illustrate youth engaged in the activities offered.



DISCUSSION:

On December 9, 2015, the Riverside Public Library became an official LittleBits Chapter, 1 of 8 in the State and the only official LittleBits chapter in a California Public Library. The web link to the Riverside Public Library Chapter is located at <http://littlebits.cc/community/chapters/littlebits-riverside-library>.

The Riverside Public Library is now offering more STEAM programming in its branches. The scheduled programming is listed below.

1. Main Library: LittleBits Car Race Challenge on July 20, 2016 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
2. Casa Blanca Library: Olympic Challenge on July 25, 2016 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
3. Casa Blanca Library: LittleBits Carnival Game Challenge in October
4. Casa Blanca: Every Monday during the STEAM TEAM program LittleBits are available for use.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared by: Tonya Kennon, Library Director

Concurred by: Adolfo Cruz, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director

Approved by: Alexander T. Nguyen, Assistant City Manager