



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Board of Library Trustees

**TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**DATE: JUNE 26, 2017**

**FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**SUBJECT: ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM UPDATE**

## **ISSUE:**

Receive an update on the Adult Literacy Program.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file the Adult Literacy Program update.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Riverside Public Library offers a free literacy program to English speaking persons 18 years of age or older. The Adult Literacy program (Program) trains volunteers to provide independent learning opportunities to adults who want to improve their reading, writing and computer skills through one-on-one tutoring. The literacy program changes peoples' lives by allowing them to gain confidence to read to their children, write checks, obtain jobs, and more.

The Program is part of the larger California Library Literacy Services project, supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), administered in California by the State Librarian. The Library annually receives LSTA funds to operate the program. Annual funding varies based on a three-part formula that includes:

1. A baseline amount for each approved literacy program in the state;
2. A per capita amount per adult learner served in the previous year; and
3. A match on local funds raised and expended for adult literacy services – reflecting a commitment to a continuing state/local partnership and providing an incentive for increased local support for adult literacy.

## **DISCUSSION:**

The Library received \$26,000 in FY 16-17, an increase of over \$8,000 from FY 13-14 due to an increase in the governor's budget for California Library Literacy Services the past several years.

Much of the Program's success is due to our volunteer tutors who are largely acquired through a key partnership with the Friends of the Library. The Friends of the Library Literacy Committee provides assistance with volunteer recruitment, screening and training. The Program serves 55

tutor/learner pairs and has a consistently has a learner waiting list. This year over 50 goals were met, more than 200 books were given away, and upwards of 2,000 tutor hours were logged.

This year the Library was able to offer more training and conference opportunities for tutors through our participation in the Inland Library System's Adult Literacy Committee. The Program has seen increased visibility within the City of Riverside as a result of filming an ad with the RiversideTV team in early January which plays on the City's cable channel and is posted on the City's YouTube channel and the library website.

The Program hosted a literacy celebration at the Arlanza Library on Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This celebration focused on promoting reading together as a family. Approximately 250 community members attended to enjoy storytimes, face painting, watch the antics of a strolling magician, and to collect creative balloon animals and balloon hats! Programming included four special storytimes, with Councilmember Perry reading *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*; Fire Chief Moore reading *The Adventures of Beige Bear and Brown Bear: the Accidental Party* written by, Robyne Moore; Police Chief Diaz reading *What Pet Should I Get?*; and Debra Mares, from the District Attorney's office, reading her bilingual book *It's This Monkey's Business* with the help of Cabana, the Spider Monkey. Children and their families were also visited by the crew of Arlanza Fire Station No. 7 who share information about their fire truck and fire equipment. Families shared that they had a fun time and thoroughly enjoyed the guest storytellers and performers. The energy of the crowd was contagious with many guests staying the entire length of the event.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Attachment: Presentation