



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES **DATE: JUNE 25, 2018**

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUBJECT: PRESENTATION ON SUMMER READING PROGRAM AT RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, JUNE 16, 2018 THROUGH AUGUST 4, 2018

ISSUE:

Receive an update on the Summer Reading Program at Riverside Public Libraries.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an update on the Summer Reading Program at Riverside Public Libraries, June 16, 2018 through August 4, 2018.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Public Library's Summer Reading Program (SRP) has been a long-standing offering to enthusiastic customers of all ages. In 2017, 5,535 customers signed up for the SRP (Juvenile: 4,601, Teen: 543, Adult: 391) for a total attendance of 5,860.

The SRP 2018, themed "Reading Takes You Everywhere," will run from June 16 through August 4. The SRP committee is working on unique ideas for programming, sponsorships and décor at all Riverside Public Library locations. The theme is designed to facilitate participants' exploration of the power of books and "where" they can take you, but to also encourage exploration of the City of Riverside, Riverside County, and the Inland region, discovering possibilities and destinations unknown.

On May 9, 2018, the Community Services and Youth Commission received a presentation on the SRP given by Interim Library Director Christmas.

DISCUSSION:

The SRP kick-off event will take place on June 18th at 11:00 a.m. at the Riverside Municipal Auditorium located at 3485 Mission Inn Avenue. All are welcome to attend a high energy, interactive musical performance by Kids Imagine Nation. Attendees will be able to sign up to receive prizes for reading books over the summer.

SRP Programming

There will be a total of 24 paid performances presented throughout the SRP, attracting customers of all ages into all library locations. The total cost of the performers is approximately \$9,500. The Friends of the Riverside Public Library gives a donation quarterly to the Riverside Public Library and part of that donation funds the summer reading program. These performances range from Polynesian and Native American Tribal dancers to magicians and puppeteers and can be enjoyed by customers of all ages.

During the SRP, Library Staff will bring the Storymobile to several park locations four days of each week, providing materials to check out, storytimes, crafts, and, debuting this summer, hands-on Science Technology Education Art and Mathematics (STEAM) activities for children to explore.

The Library department partnered with Riverside Public Utilities staff who will develop a program at each of the Library locations as part of the Summer Reading Program. This program will center on wind energy and will provide several different activity stations, including a pop-up energy generation lab, a blade-design expo, a mini-grid demo and a pinwheel craft for children to make and take home.

To round out the children's programming schedule, staff will present two programs at each location, which will focus on STEAM activities/skills. Children may make balloon rockets, bouncy balls, bath salt "bombs" or hone their building skills with gumdrop engineering. The Library will provide all of the materials needed for kids to participate in these enrichment activities.

Teens will also have some great activities to participate in this summer. Library locations will be hosting Chocolate Olympics, Minute-to-Win-it, origami, Zine projects and a craft where Teens can make travel-themed duct tape pouches. Activities will vary at each location. As teens participate in various activities, they will earn raffle tickets for a grand prize drawing at each Library location at the end of summer.

Adults can also get in on the fun by playing Library Bingo. Participants will be able to go into any Riverside Public Library location, pick up a Bingo card and play. These cards not only have reading-related squares, but also give the player opportunities to connect with their community. For example, squares ask participants to "Donate to a food bank," "Research a place to volunteer" and "Chat with someone next to you in line." Once the participant achieves "BINGO" they will bring their card to their Library for a chance to win a variety of prizes.

As part of the City Council approved Riverside 2.1 Strategic Plan, one of the Library goals is to increase summer reading program participant outcomes. The performance measure is to maintain above 80% of participants noting an increase in reading for pleasure. During Summer Reading 2017, the Library measured outcomes of 88% of the participants noting an increase in reading for pleasure.

The Library participates in two California Library Association summer programs associated with summer reading: 1) Lunch at the Library, and 2) Summer Reading Outcome Measures. Lunch at the Library offers free lunches daily at both the SPC Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library and the Main Library to youth 18 and under. These lunches are paid for and served by personnel from the Riverside Unified School District. Library staff provide activities and enrichment opportunities for the youth and families in attendance. Summer Reading Outcome Measures track the

effectiveness of Summer Reading Programs across the state of California. Survey questions ask customers if they feel welcome at the Library, enjoy participating in activities, talk about the books they've read, etc.

According to the California Library Association, research has shown that summer reading loss is cumulative. By the end of 6th grade, children who consistently lose reading skills over the summer will be two years behind their classmates. The Riverside Public Library tries to help by providing an enriching summer reading program to prevent this reading loss over the summer, reduce the size of the achievement gap between those children who read and those who do not, and encourage reading for pleasure.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Attachment: Presentation