



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL** **DATE: OCTOBER 23, 2018**

**FROM: LIBRARY DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: DONATION FROM BLUETROT OF FOUR (4) OCULUS GO SYSTEMS, A VIRTUAL REALITY HEADSETS, VALUED AT \$800**

## **ISSUE:**

Accept the donation from BlueTrot of four (4) Oculus Go Systems, a virtual reality headset, valued at \$800.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council accept the donation from BlueTrot of four (4) Oculus Go Systems for use by the Riverside Public Library for programming.

## **BOARD RECOMMENDATION:**

On September 24, 2018, the Board of Library Trustees unanimously accepted the donation of four (4) Oculus Go Systems from BurTrot.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On July 20, 2018, BlueTrot, a research firm for the California Library Virtual Reality Initiative, contacted Library staff to see if there was interest in participating in a new pilot Oculus virtual reality education program. The California State Library is making virtual reality technology available to public libraries across the State as part of its Virtual Reality Experience Project. Virtual reality is a computer-generated 3D immersive experience that can be interacted through the use of headgear or hand controls with sensors for educational and entertainment purposes.

BlueTrot requested library staff test the new Oculus Go virtual reality system, which launched on May 1, 2018, and identify necessary changes to the system in order for libraries to offer virtual lecture series and other social educational opportunities to library users regardless of geographical location. The goal of the lecture series is to allow people to remotely join speakers without barriers to geographic distance or costs.

## **DISCUSSION:**

On August 20, 2018, BlueTrot donated four (4) Oculus Go standalone virtual reality headset systems. These systems free users from the wires and larger footprint of the Oculus Rift, previously donated. The Oculus Rift equipment was used for educational programs at outreach opportunities and was checked out over 180 times this fiscal year.

The Oculus Go systems are equipped with an onboard 32GB memory capacity, a headset charger and a controller. This collaboration aims to use virtual reality technology to deliver virtual lectures that librarians and the public can attend remotely without the inconvenience of traveling. These additional systems will allow more library locations to use virtual reality equipment and staff to more easily incorporate the systems into outreach opportunities.

## **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with the acceptance of this donation.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Library Director  
Certified as to  
availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Acting Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer  
Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachments: Minutes September 24, 2018