



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# Board of Library Trustees

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**TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

**DATE: JANUARY 28, 2019**

**FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WITH VETERANS PROGRAM**

**ISSUE:**

Receive an update on the Community Conversations with Veterans Program.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file an update on the Community Conversations with Veterans Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

On November 20, 2018, the Riverside Public Library submitted a request to the California Center for the Book for an opportunity to participate in the Community Conversations with Veterans Program (Program). The allocated request is \$1,000 for speaker fees and books. Community Conversations with Veterans is a new partnership between California Center for the Book and Veterans Connect @ Your Library. California Center for the Book is a program of the California Library Association, supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Only 15 California libraries were selected to participate in this opportunity to connect more closely with veterans and their families, while also helping veterans and their families connect to the community and resources. Libraries that currently provide or plan to provide Veterans Resource Centers at their location were given first preference in the application process. Riverside Public Library has had a Veterans Resource Center for approximately four (4) years which currently resides at the SSgt Salvador J. Lara Casa Blanca Library.

**DISCUSSION:**

On November 27, 2018, the Riverside Public Library's request to participate in the Program was approved by the California Center for the Book. The Riverside Public Library will have an opportunity to expand the reach of the City's Veterans Resource Center with funding for books and community programs through California Center for the Book. The Library will collaborate

with a community partner and fellow librarians to design programs that promote the Veterans Resource Center and reach veterans and their families in the community.

The Riverside Public Library will receive from California Center for the Book:

1. A collection of veterans-related titles to use as programming inspiration (\$500 value)
2. \$500 in programming funds paid directly to one community partner, nonprofit, speaker, or moderator

Additionally, the Riverside Public Library will agree to:

1. Work with a community partner, such as local nonprofit serving veterans or a local veterans agency or service provider
2. Plan 2 community programs that encourage conversation and resource sharing with veterans, their families, and/or the greater community (these programs may also count for programming requirements for Veterans Connect @ the Library)
3. Communicate best practices by actively participating and sharing with fellow librarians and California Center for the Book program staff.

The Library will partner with the Inlandia Institute, a non-profit literary center, as one of the partners for this Program. The Program requires completion by June 2019 with a final report due to the California Center for the Book in July 2019.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The total allocation of \$1,000 will cover speaker fees and books to use as programming. The practice of the California Center for the Book is to not reimburse the Riverside Public Library or offer funds directly to the Riverside Public Library. However, the books will be ordered directly by California Center for the Book and shipped to the Riverside Public Library. Invoices for speaker fees and giveaway books will be paid directly by California Center for the Book. If there are additional speaker fees, staff will request funding from the Friends of the Library or the Library Foundation to offset costs. There are no matching funds required.

Prepared by: Erin Christmas, Library Director

Certified as to

availability of funds: Edward Enriquez, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer

Approved by: Lea Deesing, Assistant City Manager