



*City of Arts & Innovation*

# City Council Memorandum

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL      DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2019**

**FROM: LIBRARY DEPARTMENT      WARDS: ALL**

**SUBJECT: GRANT AWARD IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FROM CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY, LIBRARY SERVICES AND TECHNOLOGY ACT, FOR LEARNING TO GO PROJECT - SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION**

## **ISSUES:**

Accept \$10,000 in grant funds from the California State Library, Library Services and Technology Act for the Riverside Public Library's Learning to Go project and appropriate expenditures in the same amount.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council:

1. Accept \$10,000 in grant funds from the California State Library, Library Services and Technology Act for the Learning to Go project;
2. Authorize, upon approval, an increase in estimated revenues in account 9338700102-33410000 in the amount of \$10,000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount into Learning to Go project account 9338700102-44021000; and
3. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, execute all grant related documents and to make non-substantive changes.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The Riverside Public Library actively pursues grant funding as an alternative funding source and/or supplement to City funds to enable unique program opportunities for the community. Grants offer valuable, unique opportunities for local jurisdictions to compete for funding sources available through, State, Federal, or other agencies to assist in covering the costs of selected projects.

On December 10, 2018, the Riverside Public Library submitted a grant application to the California State Library for the Learning to Go project for a total of \$10,000 in federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds. The LSTA is the only federal program exclusively for libraries. It is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). State libraries use the

funds to support statewide initiatives and also distribute the funds through subgrants or cooperative agreements to public, school, academic, research, and special libraries.

The Riverside Public Library currently has approximately 250 outdated storytime kits housed at the Main Library previously used by local preschools, childcare providers and other early learning organizations in the Riverside community. These kits are currently unused as they are not easily able to circulate in their current storage, have many outdated elements that make them less attractive to users, are only accessible at the Main Library and are not marketed to the community. Additionally, restricting circulation to only specific groups has not made them successful.

With the funding from the Learning to Go grant opportunity, the storytime kits can be updated with new materials, redesigned early literacy components and manipulatives and make them available to everyone in the community. By adding these updated early literacy kits to the array of loanable items provided by the Riverside Public Library, the early literacy needs of the community may be met.

The 2017 American Community One Year Survey found that only 38.3% of children ages 3-4 are in school ([https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_17\\_1YR\\_S1401&prodType=table](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_1YR_S1401&prodType=table) accessed 11/29/18). By expanding access to the early literacy kits more children in the community will be exposed to these items and increase their school readiness prior to entering Kindergarten.

Early literacy components may include the following:

1. A guide on how to read with your children
2. A Kindergarten skills readiness flyer
3. A list of the top books to read to a child at different age ranges
4. Nursery rhymes and finger plays that match the theme of the books in the kits

These items would provide parents and providers information specific to the needs of children and encourage greater early literacy outcomes for children using these kits. Manipulatives would be thematic and educational based on the titles represented in the kits.

## **DISCUSSION:**

On January 2, 2019, the Riverside Public Library received a letter (attached) from the California State Library approving the grant application for the Learning to Go project for a total of \$10,000 in LTSA funds.

The Learning to Go grant would support the mission and goals of the Riverside Public Library. The Mission of the Riverside Public Library is to be the cultural and learning center for the community, encouraging the joy and wonder of reading, the wisdom of diverse ideas and the power of lifelong learning. This project will specifically encourage the joy and wonder of reading and it will also mark the Library as a location that provides learning information to the entire community. Specifically the goals of 1.) Cultivate Library use by residents, with an emphasis on self-directed, lifelong learning to produce a highly literate and educated community; and 2.) Support the City's youth through programs and services with an emphasis on technology and media literacy, including summer learning, teen services, and outreach to schools; directly tie in to this project.

By providing these kits to families it allows for both the children and parents/providers to select kits on topics they are most interested in exploring and ensure the children are gaining the skills necessary to be ready to enter Kindergarten. Early literacy is a key factor in determining educational success. This program will directly support the youth of Riverside and many of the manipulatives/activities provided in these kits will be science, technology, engineering, art or math based.

The grant term is January 1, 2019, through September 30, 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is not Fiscal Impact to the General Fund associated with this report. The total grant award is \$10,000 and will cover the costs associated with the Learning to Go project. No matching City funds are required. Upon approval, there will be an increase in estimated revenues in account 9338700102-33410000 in the amount of \$10,000 and appropriate expenditures in the same amount into Learning to Go project account 9338700102-44021000.

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  
Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: Letter