



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2025

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: RIVERSIDE READS PROGRAM 2025

ISSUE:

Receive an informational report on the 2025 Riverside Reads program at the Riverside Public Library.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an informational update on the 2025 Riverside Reads program at the Riverside Public Library.

BACKGROUND:

The Riverside Reads program at the Riverside Public Library is an annual program that provides an opportunity for the community to have a shared reading experience and to participate in engaging discussions. The book title is selected based on topics that may be of social or historical significance to the community. In addition to print and digital copies that can be checked out from the library, free copies of the book are also available at all library locations.

DISCUSSION:

The book selected for Riverside Reads this year is *The Boys of Riverside: A Deaf Football Team and a Quest for Glory* by New York Times reporter and San Francisco Bureau Chief Thomas Fuller. This is the incredible story of the California School for the Deaf Riverside's high school football team and their "triumphant climb from underdog to undefeated. It's a fascinating portrait of deafness in America, the inspirational brotherhood among the players, and the head coach who spearheaded and advocated for the team". Since publication, this record-breaking football team has again won the championship, totaling three in a row! Free copies of the book will be available at all eight library locations starting in February, while supplies last.

Programming this year will celebrate the local Deaf community. Events will begin on March 15 with the author, Thomas Fuller, speaking at the La Sierra Senior Center. Scheduled throughout March and April will be community book discussions and several events at the California School for the Deaf Riverside (CSDR), including a 5K run, an ASL program, a tour of the school and

exhibitions in their social hall, and a college and career day featuring student demonstrations, products and food from deaf-owned businesses. The author event and all book discussions will have ASL interpreters.

The 2025 Riverside Reads program will be supported by funds from the Riverside Public Library Foundation and the Friends of the Riverside Library.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to Strategic Priority No. 1 Arts, Culture & Recreation: Provide diverse community experiences and personal enrichment opportunities for people of all ages and Goal 1.1 - Strengthen Riverside's portfolio of arts, culture, recreation, senior and lifelong learning programs and amenities through expanded community partnerships, shared use opportunities and fund development

This item aligns with each of the five Cross-Cutting Threads as follows:

1. **Community Trust** – Riverside is transparent and makes decisions based on sound policy, inclusive community engagement, involvement of City Boards & Commissions, and timely and reliable information. Activities and actions by the City serve the public interest, benefit the City's diverse populations, and result in greater public good.
2. **Equity** – Riverside is supportive of the City's racial, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, identity, geographic, and other attributes of diversity and is committed to advancing the fairness of treatment, recognition of rights, and equitable distribution of services to ensure every member of the community has equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – Riverside is a prudent steward of public funds and ensures responsible management of the City's financial resources while providing quality public services to all.
4. **Innovation** – Riverside is inventive and timely in meeting the community's changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – Riverside is committed to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the needs of the future and ensuring the City's capacity to persevere, adapt and grow during good and difficult times alike.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this informational report.

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