



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2026

FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY

WARDS: ALL

SUBJECT: READ AROUND RIVERSIDE

ISSUE:

Receive an informational report on the 2025 Read Around Riverside Adult Reading Program

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive an informational report on the 2025 Read Around Riverside Adult Reading Program implemented by Riverside Public Library.

BACKGROUND:

With the goals of engaging adult patrons, fostering a lifelong appreciation for reading, educating the community about Riverside Public Library's resources and programs, and highlighting local small businesses, Riverside Public Library implemented Read Around Riverside, a month-long adult winter reading program. The program utilized Beanstack, a digital platform for managing reading challenges and events, to register participants and track reading activity throughout the duration of the program.

DISCUSSION:

Read Around Riverside ran from Friday, December 5, 2025, through Friday, January 2, 2026, with pre-registration opening on November 21, 2025. Utilizing Beanstack, Riverside Public Library created a challenge with an individual reading goal of 500 minutes and a community reading goal of 25,000 minutes. For each 100 minutes logged, participants earned tickets that could be placed in different prize buckets. An additional facet of the challenge was a Bingo card that highlighted resources offered by Riverside Public Library, adult library programs at different locations, and in-person outings planned at local businesses. Participants were able to complete different activities or "badges" and earn additional raffle tickets when they achieved bingo.

Over the course of the reading challenge, including pre-registration, there were a total of 389 registrations, participants aged 18 through 80, 1609 badges earned, and over 118,000 minutes logged as a community. The initial community goal of 25,000 minutes was surpassed in less than a week.

To increase awareness of adult programming, planned library programs at La Sierra and Marcy locations were featured as badges within the challenge, leading to increased program attendance. Another goal of this program was to highlight local small businesses within Riverside. To accomplish this goal, two in-person events were held. On Thursday, December 18, 2025, Riverside Public Library hosted an open play game night at Nevermore Game Club, where participants played board games, had cookies from Riverside Cookie Shoppe, and completed a dragon diamond art craft. To mark the end of the program, a Book Show & Tell was hosted at Thompson Brewing Company on Friday, January 2, 2026. Program attendees created vision boards and held book discussions on what they read throughout the challenge. Both in-person events were well attended and attracted 30+ participants.

Approximately \$558 was spent on this program. Door prizes, program supplies, and raffle prizes were purchased.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this informational report.

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