

Free programs and performances were offered every week at each library location. Over 5,800 people attended SRP programs over the summer, a 29% increase over last year. Some of the programs offered included: Brettso the Great, Michael Rayner Comedy Juggler, Eco Fashion Show, Wild Wonders Animal Show, and Benjamin Hale: North American Indian Tribal Culture Through Stories, Music, and Dances. Participants said the programs were “engaging and unique” and one family told staff the summer reading program had brought so much to their lives over the years.

The Main Library and the SPC. Jesus S. Duran Eastside Library also offered free lunches to anyone 18 and under as part of the Lunch at the Library Program, funded by a grant from the California State Library. The Riverside Unified School District partnered with the Library to provide free lunches, and the Library provided free books, crafts, and activities, including performers to entertain families. New this year, the Library was able to use grant funds to hire American Sign Language interpreters to attend the weekly performances, increasing accessibility for the community. 3,288 lunches were served to kids and teens over the summer, a 36% increase over last year.

As part of the Library’s summer outreach to the community, staff provided pop-up programs at four Riverside Parks. Over 2,000 kids and families participated in outside storywalks, crafts, and activities, including self-portraits and engineering challenges. Library cards were issued, and free children’s books were handed out so families could continue to add to their home libraries. One child was excited that she would be able to take a book home to read to her grandmother who wasn’t able to leave the house.

Approximately, \$17,934 was spent on the Summer Reading Program from the Library’s Gift fund account and \$30,481 was spent on the Lunch at the Library and Pop-Up Park Visits from a grant awarded to the Library by the California State Library.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This item contributes to **Strategic Priority No. 1 Arts, Culture & Recreation** and **Goal No. 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. **Goal No. 1.2** – Facilitate equitable access to arts, culture and recreational service offerings and facilities. **Goal No. 1.5** – Support the development, literacy, health, and education of children and youth throughout the community.

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

1. **Community Trust** – This informational report for staff focuses on literacy resources and services for inclusive community engagement.
2. **Equity** – This informational report provides members of the community for equal access to share the benefits of community progress.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** – There were no fiscal impacts to the General Fund with this information report. The Riverside Public Library 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** – This informational report on Summer Reading Program is timely in meeting

the community's changing needs and prepares for the future through collaborative partnerships and adaptive processes.

5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** – This informational report on Summer Reading Program relates 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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Attachment: Presentation