



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES **DATE: MARCH 9, 2026**
FROM: RIVERSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY
SUBJECT: ANNUAL SERVING WITH A PURPOSE CONFERENCE

ISSUE:

Receive and file a report on the annual Serving with a Purpose Conference on May 14, 2026, at the Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Library Trustees receive and file this report on the annual Serving with a Purpose Conference on May 16, 2026, at the Ontario Convention Center, Ontario, CA.

BACKGROUND:

On May 22, 2013, Serving with a Purpose held its first conference which was designed exclusively for library advocates and board members and the staff that support them. Serving with a Purpose mission is to provide relevant training, resources and inspiration to the board members of Friends of the Library, Foundations and Library Trustees and Commissioners while having fun too.

DISCUSSION:

The annual Serving with a Purpose Conference will be held on May 16, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ontario Convention Center. The 2026 theme is Excellence Begins with the Essentials; Helping your Boards Soar!"

Historically, representatives from Library staff, the Board of Library Trustees, Library Foundation and Friends of the Library have attended this event, which provides programs, and a forum for discussion on issues directly related to supporting public library services. The conference includes continental breakfast, a sit-down catered lunch and conference materials.

The keynote speaker at this year's conference is Amanda ReCupido. ReCupido leads strategic planning efforts for nonprofit clients encompassing fundraising and communications, staff and board engagement, issues mitigation and more. Under her leadership, the Downers Grove Public Library Foundation has increased its fundraising and community awareness, including its

first-ever signature event, matching donor and major grant.

Also attending the conference is author Steven Rowley. Steven Rowley is an American novelist best known for his heartfelt and humorous works that explore themes of love, loss, and family, including *Lily and the Octopus*, *The Guncle*, and *The Celebrants*. He will be discussing his newest work, *Take Me With You*.

There will be also popular breakout sessions, engaging speakers, and much more.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

Prepared and Approved by: Erin Christmas, Library Director