



City of Arts & Innovation

Board of Library Trustees

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES **DATE: MARCH 11, 2024**

FROM: LIBRARY DEPARTMENT **WARDS: ALL**

SUBJECT: RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS PARKS PASS PROGRAM

ISSUES:

Receive an update on the Library Explore the Outdoors Parks Pass Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board of Library Trustees accept the Library Explore the Outdoors Parks Pass Program backpack kits and request City Council consideration in accepting the 35 backpacks and kits.

BACKGROUND:

Through a partnership with the California State Parks, the California State Library Parks Pass program provides 5,000 free vehicle-day use passes for circulation at all branches of public libraries in California. As part of a three-year pilot program, the new Library Pass programs was launched in April 2022. The passes are a physical hangtag and are valid at over 200 parks for once car's access.

On June 20, 2022, the Riverside Public Library was awarded the Park Pass Program Grant project for a total of \$5,000 in California State Library funds and on March 7, 2023, the Library received notice of an additional grant award in the amount of \$75,000 for the Park Pass Program. With these funds the Riverside Public Library purchased and created explorer backpacks to circulate at all library locations. Each explorer backpack included locally printed park guides in both English and Spanish, trail maps, and information about the California Citrus State Historic Park. They also included a family hiking book/nature book in English or Spanish, a pair of children's binoculars, a compass, and a magnifying glass. Explorer backpacks will strengthen the relationship between community members and the outdoors as it will provide all items needed to have a great day at the park. They will encourage families to gather outside together, learn about existing local wildlife and fauna, and provide the means to fully utilize the local State Park. Park Pass Program will be offered to the Riverside Public Library customers. The Park Pass Program allows customers to check out a Park Pass for 2 weeks.

The Project term begins upon execution of the grant agreement through February 29, 2024.

Reporting guidelines: The Riverside Public Library will provide mid-project financial and narrative reports on September 1, 2023, and final financial and narrative report by March 30, 2024.

DISCUSSION:

On January 9, 2024, the library received notification that it will receive 35 Parks Pass Hiking Backpacks and kits. The kits will include a few items such as a Treking Pole, binocular, compass, emergency survival horn, poncho, mosquito head net, flashlight, and wildlife and plants field guide.

Additionally, the Library received Riverside County Park passes as an additional amenity to the Park pass program. Customers can check out a Riverside County Parks pass that allows free admission to any of 19 Riverside County parks. Amenities include fishing, one vehicle per pass and splash pad use. The funding was made possible by the State Library Park Pass Grant. Customers

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

The item presented in this report contributes to Strategic Priority No. 1 *Arts, Culture & Recreation* 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.

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

1. **Community Trust** - This item aligns with Community Trust by minimizing the expenditure of City funds through community partnership and involving the members of the community to encourage or enhance communication.
2. **Equity** - This item aligns with Equity by facilitating equitable distribution of services to every member of the community.
3. **Fiscal Responsibility** - This item aligns with Fiscal Responsibility as the community would benefit by accepting this award with no financial implications to the City other than in-kind contributions of staff time.
4. **Innovation** - This item aligns with Innovation by continuing partnership with the California State Library.
5. **Sustainability & Resiliency** - This item aligns with Sustainability & Resiliency by potentially providing fund development opportunity.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact with this report.

Prepared by: Angela Henson, Sr. Management Analyst
Approved by: Erin Christmas, Library Director