



Legislation Text

File #: 19-0437, **Version:** 1

Recommendation to authorize City Manager, or designee, to execute an agreement with the Public Library Association to accept and expend grant funding in the amount of \$3,500, for an internship program; and

Increase appropriations in the General Grants Fund Group in the Library Services Department by \$3,500, offset by grant revenue. (Citywide)

The Library Services Department (Library) grant application to the Public Library Association was approved. The Michelle Obama Neighborhood Library was one of 50 libraries across the country selected to participate in an Inclusive Internship Initiative (III), in the amount of \$3,500 for a ten-week grant period ending in the fall 2019.

This program consists of a ten-week paid internship introducing teens from diverse backgrounds to careers in librarianship. The teen intern is responsible, along with a Library staff member functioning as a mentor, for developing a community-based project aligned with the Library's goals and with principles of equity and diversity.

The selected teen will work with Library staff to develop a connected learning project. The project will center on community building by addressing the language gap. Since 54.4 percent of Long Beach's population speak languages other than English, the Library wants to ensure patrons' literacy and communal needs are fulfilled. The intern and the mentor will create a project that addresses this gap and establishes a dialogue about the difficulties of navigating public spaces and institutions derived from it. The goal of the project is to gather the community's insight on how community libraries can facilitate non-native English speakers to fulfill their educational and communal needs. Library mentors and interns will engage with multiple facets of library life, from administration to programming to user services. Interns will have opportunities to connect with one another, and learn from mentors across the country.

As part of the mission to serve the entire community, public libraries value equity, diversity, and inclusion. It is important that these values are reflected in the staff of public libraries. To attract the best candidates who reflect the diversity of our communities, librarianship must be viewed as a viable, rewarding, and meaningful career path. Both the teen intern and the mentor will attend a kick-off meeting in Chicago, Illinois in June 2019 and a wrap-up event in Washington D.C. in September 2019, all of which is included in the Public Library Association funding. At the kick-off event, the intern will have the opportunity to present a master class and participate in group learning and networking opportunities.

Through III, students from diverse backgrounds are introduced to careers in librarianship,

library mentors practice leadership skills, and our libraries grow new audiences through outreach and programming.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Amy R. Webber on April 2, 2019 and by Budget Analysis Officer Julissa José-Murray on April 18, 2019.

City Council action is requested on May 7, 2019, to receive and expend grant funding.

The City will receive funding in the amount of \$3,500 for an Inclusive Internship Initiative (III) grant. An appropriation increase is requested in the amount of \$3,500 in the General Grants Fund Group in the Library Services Department (36), offset by grant revenue. Participation in the Inclusive Internship Initiative program is anticipated to require a minimal level of staff hours beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

Approve recommendation.

GLEND A WILLIAMS
DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES

APPROVED:

PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER