

CITY OF OAKLAND

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2004 MAY 26 AM 10:11

Agenda Report

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Library Department
DATE: June 8, 2004
RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND APPROPRIATE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,050 FROM THE STOCKER FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT EXPANSION OF THE LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005

SUMMARY

Staff recommends that the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds in the amount of \$59,050 for fiscal year 2004-2005 from The Stocker Foundation. The grant is provided by The Stocker Foundation to public libraries nationwide to improve library summer reading programs for children.

FISCAL IMPACT

The grant will fully fund summer reading program costs such as books, supplies, performers and workshop presenters for the Summer Reading Game period June 15 - August 15, 2004 and has no impact on the general fund. It will be appropriated to Fund 7540 (Oakland Public Library Trust), in Organization 61313 and in a project to be established.

BACKGROUND

The Stocker Foundation of Lorain, Ohio supports literacy interventions that have an impact on student achievement, particularly those programs sponsored by public libraries.

“Although there are many worthwhile and effective programs, we support the research that reveals public library programming to be among the best and consistently linked to academic gains for students in every income group participating.” (The Stocker Foundation grant announcement, December 2003)

The competitive grant awards are intended to strengthen existing reading programs for youth in communities where The Stocker Foundation already has a funding presence, with a special emphasis on reaching out to lower-income children and families.

Item: 8
Life Enrichment Committee
June 8, 2004

The Stocker Foundation invited the Library to apply for grant funding for the Summer 2004 Summer Reading Program. The Library, as a result of new initiatives that promote early childhood literacy and family literacy, would like to apply for Stocker Foundation funding to expand the Summer Reading Program to include a family literacy and reading readiness element. This expansion would feature family literacy and reading readiness workshops, incentives for parents to participate, bilingual and multicultural materials, and reading-related children's performances.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

While throughout the decades, Oakland's Summer Reading Program has been an effective strategy for keeping children's literacy levels up during the summer and preventing reading skills "slippage" by encouraging reading during the non-school months, its role has become increasingly more critical to childhood literacy and school success. It is now more important than ever that children be ready to learn to read when they go to kindergarten, and that parents know how to prepare and encourage their children to be readers. The urgency of this is seen in the continuing high numbers of children reading below grade level, a number exacerbated by the continuing decline of the resources of the Oakland public schools. It is this continuing decline, the shortage of school libraries and librarians in Oakland, and a very successful library-wide family literacy initiative this past November that reached 1500 preschool children and their families that have led the Library to seek outside funding to build more early literacy activities into its children's program. The Library also seeks to include in the expanded Summer Reading Program the very youngest children, ages 0-6, who have previously not been targeted for this program.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This year, as the result of a very successful mid-year early literacy program (Go Places, Read) targeting children ages 0 – 6 and their parents, the Oakland Public Library is expanding the scope of the Summer Reading Program to include activities that promote the early childhood and emergent literacy of these young children and their families. In addition to the standard "reading game," where children read books, make reports, receive incentives and attend reading-related programs, the Summer Reading Program will feature workshops that encourage parents to help develop their children's literacy skills and school readiness. These workshops will be provided by reading and child development specialists.

Seventeen full-time Children's Librarians coordinate the Summer Reading Program at the seventeen libraries (including the bookmobile). Other staff, including library assistants, aides, and the administrative support staff, have roles to play in Summer Reading. These staff are dedicated to the Summer Reading Program each year, as an annual seasonal professional responsibility. They are assisted by community and teen volunteers.

The 2004 Summer Reading Program will take place at sixteen libraries and the bookmobile from June 12, 2004 – August 14, 2004. The jungle theme will be publicized under the title, “Oakland Families Go Wild With Books.” During these 8 weeks:

- Children can visit Oakland Public Libraries to attend special reading-related performances by visiting musicians, puppeteers, dancers, theatre companies, or other entertainers. While in the library, they will be invited to sign up for the Summer Reading Game.
- There will be story times for ages 0 to 3, 2 to 5, 2 to 9, or 8 to 13.
- Families are invited to attend literacy and reading readiness workshops that are activity based for age groups 0 to 4, 5 to 8 and 9 to 13. Their children will also sign up for the Summer Reading Game.
- Children through age 13 can sign up for the Summer Reading Game and record the time they spend in reading.
- Prizes will be given to children who reach different time-based reading goals.
- Adults who bring children to participate in the Summer Reading Game and the workshops will receive incentive prizes also.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Children and families who are reading together, and children who are academically successful, read more and learn more about community sustainability. Well-read people are more likely to vote, and more likely to become involved in their communities. Thus any literacy initiatives that improve the education level of the community will necessarily improve the level of sustainability of that community.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The Library’s Summer Reading Program accepts all eligible applicants regardless of disability. All facilities of the Oakland Public Library are ADA accessible. Senior citizens are encouraged to be Summer Reading Program volunteers.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

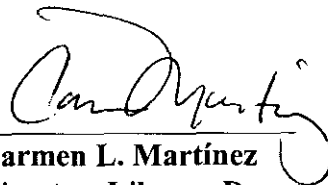
Staff recommends that the City Council approve this resolution in order to support the expansion of the Library’s Summer Reading Program to include family literacy and reading readiness activities for children ages 0 – 6 and their families.

Item: 8
Life Enrichment Committee
June 8, 2004

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

That the City Council approve the resolution authorizing the City Administrator to apply for, accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of \$59,050 from The Stocker Foundation for the Library's Summer 2004 Summer Reading Program.

Respectfully submitted,



Carmen L. Martinez
Director, Library Department

Prepared by:
Leslie Rodd
Administrative Librarian for Program Management

APPROVED FOR FORWARDING TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE


OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

A. Floyd

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

2004 MAY 26 AM 10:12

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C. M. S.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND, TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND APPROPRIATE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,050 FROM THE STOCKER FOUNDATION FOR THE LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005

WHEREAS, The Stocker Foundation has made funds available nationwide to support public library literacy interventions such as summer reading programs for fiscal year 2004-2005; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland desires to apply for and accept a grant in the amount of fifty-nine thousand and fifty dollars (\$59,050) from The Stocker Foundation to support the Library's Summer Reading Program Summer 2004; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized and directed to apply for and accept a grant in the amount of fifty-nine thousand and fifty dollars (\$59,050) for the purpose described above, with the grant appropriated to Fund 7540 (Oakland Public Library Trust), in Organization 61313 and in a project to be established; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council hereby appoints the City Administrator or her designee as agent of the City to conduct all negotiations, applications, agreements, payment requests, and related actions which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project in accordance with its basic purpose; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That should additional funds be received, the City Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized to appropriate same for the purposes described above.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20 _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – BRUNNER, CHANG, BROOKS, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN AND PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES -

ABSENT -

ASTENTION –

8

LIFE ENRICHMENT CMTE

ATTEST: _____ JUN 8 2004

CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
Of the City of Oakland, California