

CITY OF OAKLAND
Agenda Report

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
2005 DEC 23 AM 9:59

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Library Department
DATE: January 10, 2006

RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR, ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND, TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND APPROPRIATE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FROM THE URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL "LIBRARIANS FOR AMERICA'S NEIGHBORHOODS" PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1, 2005 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

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 \$25,000 for the period August 1, 2005 – September 1, 2008 from the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) "Librarians for America's Neighborhoods" program. This grant, administered by ULC, is provided by the Federal Institute for Museum and Library Services to 1) reimburse library school students for expenses incurred while obtaining their Master's Degrees in Library and Information Science, and 2) provide training and networking opportunities with local urban public libraries. The Library applied for and was awarded this grant during Council summer recess, and the grant funding covers students enrolled in library school during the session that began in September, 2005.

FISCAL IMPACT

As tuition reimbursements are fully funded by the ULC grant, there will be no fiscal impact on the General Fund. Funds received will be deposited in Fund 2148, Organization 61111, Program NB37, in a project to be established. This grant was not anticipated and thus is not included in the FY 2005-07 Adopted Policy Budget.

BACKGROUND

In order to encourage more people of diverse backgrounds from urban neighborhoods to obtain Master's Degrees in Library and Information Science and become employed in urban public libraries, the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) has offered competitive grants to 23 urban public library systems nationwide to reimburse candidates for the cost of their library school tuition.

Since in many cases, people living in Oakland's diverse neighborhoods have a great commitment to and understanding of the library needs of the community they live in, encouraging them to

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become professional librarians will improve the responsiveness and quality of the services that Oakland Public Library provides its neighborhoods.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

There is a nationwide shortage of librarians. The Library profession has not been well-marketed to high school and college students, and people who might make the best librarians, those who are interested in communities, community learning and the value of a free public library institution, do not consider the profession.

In many cases, ideal candidates might be neighborhood residents who do not have a family history of advanced degrees. They may also be people who do not feel welcome or comfortable in urban institutions themselves, or people for whom the rising costs of tuition make any graduate program inconceivable.

The ULC program aims to recruit new urban-dwellers as students into library schools nationwide, and to give them not only tuition reimbursement but the added support of a peer group, and regular “big picture” sessions to further explain the opportunities available in modern urban libraries.

Oakland fits the profile of library systems targeted for ULC funds, and the Library anticipates recruiting excellent candidates to this program during the three year life of the grant. In addition, Library administration hopes to be able to hire the ULC scholars when they graduate with their new Master’s degrees.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Six library school students living in or near Oakland will be recruited as ULC scholars. The Library will recruit through the San Jose State University School of Information Science, the only local accredited library school, where the student body includes many Oakland residents. Other recruitment strategies will include targeting neighborhood parents and volunteers who work with the Library’s PASS! After School Homework Program. These scholars will agree to participate in the workshops, on-line discussion groups and conferences, and in return will have their tuition and other school costs reimbursed by the program. Students will submit proof of payment of tuition and the Library will provide them with a reimbursement check.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The students attending library school will be obtaining a masters degree which will make them eligible for employment as professional librarians and substantially increase the amount of money they can make, and their economic standing, over a lifetime.

Environment: Several of the students attending school are educating themselves as to current public library issues. One topic in the forefront of the American Library Association's recent committee work and publications urges "Libraries Build Sustainable Communities."

Once these students receive their degrees and begin working as librarians at Oakland Public Library, they will be likely to plan programs that feature environmental and economic sustainability and to purchase materials that involve their communities in sustainability.

Equity: Obtaining a graduate degree gives these students the opportunity to achieve equity in employment, housing and further education.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

The Public Library Staff Education Program accepts all eligible applicants regardless of age or disability. Both the universities that the students are attending, and all Oakland Public Library facilities, programs and services are ADA accessible.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends that the City Council approve this resolution in order to support the creation of a new pool of urban librarians who will better serve our diverse neighborhoods.

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 \$25,000 from the Urban Libraries Council, for August 1, 2005 – September 1, 2008.

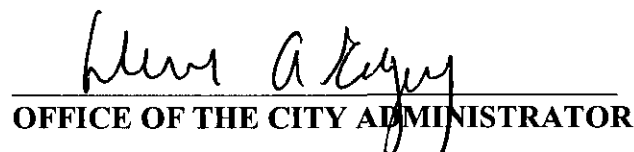
Respectfully submitted,



Carmen Martínez
Library Director

Prepared by:
Leslie Rodd, Manager
Grants and Development

Approved for forwarding to the
Life Enrichment Committee:


OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
Approved as to Form and Legality
2005 DE 3.59
Oakland City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

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 \$25,000 FROM THE URBAN LIBRARIES COUNCIL "LIBRARIANS FOR AMERICAS NEIGHBORHOODS" PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1, 2005 – SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

WHEREAS, the Urban Libraries Council (ULC) has made available grant funding to support the education of new librarians from diverse urban neighborhoods with its "Librarians for America's Neighborhoods" program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland desires to apply for, accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from the ULC for the period from August 1, 2005 – September 1, 2008 to support six library school students from Oakland neighborhoods; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized and directed to apply for, accept and appropriate a ULC grant in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for the purpose described above; 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 grant funds received will be deposited in Fund 2148 (California Library Services), Organization 61111 (Director Unit), Program NB37 (Library System-wide Services), in a project to be established; 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 without returning to Council.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 2006

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

NOES -

ABSENT -

ASTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
Of the City of Oakland, California