

CITY OF OAKLAND

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2005 OCT 13 PM 7:00

Agenda Report

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly, City Administrator
FROM: Library Department
DATE: October 25, 2005
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 \$147,000 FROM THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION FOR THE PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTER HARDWARE UPGRADE PROGRAM FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2005-2008**

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 \$147,000 for fiscal years 2005-2008 from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Program. The grant will enable the Library to upgrade a total of 117 public access computers at the Main and Branch Libraries.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Public Access Computer Upgrade Program is fully funded by the Gates Foundation for calendar years 2005-2008, with no cost to the General Fund. Monies received from this grant will be deposited in Fund 7540, Organization 61111, in a project to be established, and spent on computer hardware and software. This grant was unanticipated and is thus not included in the FY 05-07 Policy Budget.

BACKGROUND

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation supports the efforts of public libraries throughout the United States to improve access to information by providing public access computing services to library patrons.

In 1997, Oakland Public Library was a recipient of Gates Foundation funding which enabled the Library to purchase 98 public access computers for the public to use at its facilities. The community response to this expansion in computer access was, and remains, overwhelmingly positive.

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Eight years later the Gates Foundation is again making funding available for public libraries to upgrade existing public access computers over a four year period from 2005-2008. This new, one-time Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Grant program will help libraries that received Gates Foundation public access computer funds between 1997 and 2000 move closer toward public access computer equity and sustainability. In order to provide the users of the Oakland Public Library with the most up-to-date and efficient computer hardware, the Library would like to apply for funding under this upgrade program.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

The Oakland Public Library, as all public libraries nationwide, has become the computer access hub of the community, in particular providing internet and e-mail access to those residents who cannot afford to have a personal computer at home. In Oakland, a diverse city of immigrants, the public library and its internet access have connected many new immigrant families to their loved ones back home and news of their native countries.

Access to computers has become one of the top five services that public libraries provide in this information age. Not only at the Main Library's extensive 14-station computer lab but at all branch libraries large and small, Oakland residents have come to depend on the public library as their gateway to the internet.

The equipment cost involved in replacing 117 public access computers is substantial, and the existing schedule of upgrading public computers, while adequate, is not always timely, and Library sites must take turns undergoing technology replacement. The Gates grant will allow the Oakland Public Library to upgrade existing public access computers to state-of-the-art quality and support low income library users and immigrant families as they improve their computer skills and increase their knowledge of technology as a tool to connect with the world.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Program provides public libraries with funding over the four year period of 2005-2008 to purchase computer hardware and software for public access computers and computer labs to replace existing set-ups.

Gates staff has calculated roughly what each public library would need to replace all of the public access computers granted in the first round of grants in 1997-2000, with additional funds provided for software, headphones and privacy screens.

The Gates Foundation specifically targets public libraries in lower income neighborhoods and thus not all of the Library's branches are eligible for this public computer upgrade. The following libraries will be receiving new Gates computers on a schedule over the course of the grant period:

Library	Number of New Computers	Library	Number of New Computers
Asian	11	MLK	6
Brookfield	4	Melrose	6
Chavez	11	Main Library	27
Dimond	6	Piedmont	6
Eastmont	6	Rockridge	6
Elmhurst	6	Temescal	6
Golden Gate	6	West Oakland	4
Lakeview	6		

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic: The increased public access to computers and the internet, particularly on the part of lower income adults and children, will increase opportunities for Library users to improve their economic situations. Not only will Library patrons have access to more up-to-date information and become more familiar with technology (both factors in obtaining better paying employment), but they will be able to research careers, job openings, investments, schools and education programs, and scholarships, as well as produce professional looking resumes and correspondence.

Environmental: As the Library upgrades existing technology, the discarded computers will be given to the Oakland Technology Exchange, where they will be refurbished and donated to low income families or families new to the area.

As with other educational initiatives, the upgrade of public access computers will enable more children and adults to educate themselves about recycling and other sustainable practices and research more efficient use of home resources to more ably protect the environment.

Equity: The major goal of this grant is to provide equity of access to technological resources, or to bridge the digital divide between computer haves and have-nots.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS

All Oakland Public Library sites where computers will be upgraded are accessible to disabled persons and senior citizens, in compliance with ADA regulations.

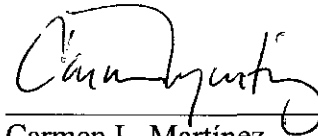
RECOMMENDATIONS AND RATIONALE

Staff recommends that the City Council approve this resolution in order to support the Library's public access computer program and assist in bridging Oakland's digital divide.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

That the City Council approve a resolution authorizing the City Administrator to apply for, accept, and appropriate grant funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the amount of \$147,000 for calendar years 2005-2008 from the Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Program.

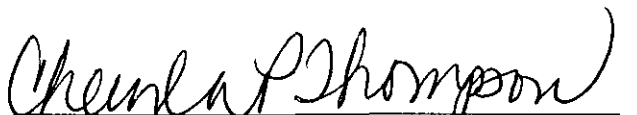
Respectfully submitted,



Carmen L. Martinez
Library Director

Prepared by:
Leslie Rodd, Manager
Grants and Development

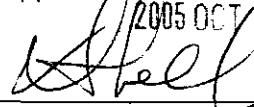
APPROVED FOR FORWARDING TO THE
LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE


OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

Approved as to Form and Legality

2005 OCT 13 PM 7:00



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 \$147,000 FROM THE BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION FOR THE PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTER HARDWARE UPGRADE PROGRAM FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2005-2008

WHEREAS, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has made funding available to public libraries to participate in the Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Program for calendar years 2005-2008; and

WHEREAS, the Oakland Public Library desires to apply for, accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of one hundred forty-seven thousand dollars (\$147,000) from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the years 2005-2008 in order to upgrade 117 public access computers at the Main and Branch Libraries; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized and directed to apply for, accept and appropriate a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the amount of one hundred forty-seven thousand (\$147,000) 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 without returning to Council; 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, _____, 2005
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