

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: Community Services – Accept and appropriate a \$14,920 grant from the Friends of the Torrance Library to fund adult programming in fiscal year 2009-10

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation of the Community Services Director that the City Council accept and appropriate a grant in the amount of \$14,920 from the Friends of the Torrance Library to present adult programming at the six Torrance libraries in fiscal year 2009-10.

Funding

Funding is available from the \$14,920 grant from the Friends of the Torrance Library.

BACKGROUND

Lack of available City funding for programs has resulted in a partnership between the Torrance Public Library and the Friends of the Torrance Library to both host and sponsor library programs and events. Over the past several years, the Torrance Public Library and the Friends have developed a reputation for bringing innovative and interesting cultural, educational, and recreational programming to the Library's community of users, and these programs are now an established and expected element of the Library's Plan of Service.

Programs for adults – from author presentations to demonstrations and lectures – are promoted prominently on the City's events calendar, the Library's web page, through the Library's monthly calendar of events, via local news sources, and by distribution of flyers in the libraries and at other community locations. The availability and success of library programs would not be possible without the generous support of the Friends of the Torrance Library.

ANALYSIS

Staff at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library and the five branch libraries will plan and implement a selection of programs for adults in the 2009-10 fiscal year that meet community interests and needs, while supporting and promoting the Library and its many resources.

In particular, the hosting and presentation of adult cultural programming helps the Library fulfill its role as a center for lifelong learning, and satisfies not only the cultural needs of Torrance citizenry, but also the need of people to meet and interact while providing opportunities to participate in public discourse on a wide range of issues and ideas.

At their June 17, 2009 Board meeting, the Friends considered and approved a proposal from Library staff requesting an amount not to exceed \$14,920 to provide a variety of high-quality adult programs throughout the 2009-10 fiscal year. All necessary costs such as speaker fees, refreshments, publicity, and supplies were included. Among programs planned are author talks, the ongoing Monthly Movie Club, and special recognitions for commemorative events such as Women's History Month, National Library Week, Asian Pacific Heritage Month, etc.

The Friends of the Torrance Library have continued to provide essential monetary and volunteer support for adult cultural and informational programming for the Torrance community. Evaluations submitted by participants attending the various programs have been consistently positive and library users have come to expect a rich calendar of events year-round. As well as providing personal growth and enrichment of the individual, the acceptance of this grant will support the Library with the necessary resources to continue this valued service and fulfill a strategic priority of the City.

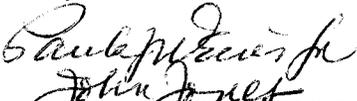
Respectfully submitted,

JOHN JONES
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

By 
Hillary Thayer
Principal Librarian

CONCUR:


Paula J. Weiner
City Librarian


John Jones
Community Services Director


LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager
for

Attachment: June 17, 2009 Proposal for Funding Assistance

June 17, 2009

TO: Friends of the Torrance Library
 FROM: Hillary Theyer, Principal Librarian
 SUBJECT: Proposal for Funding Assistance – Adult Programming FY 2009-10

Recommendation

The Principal Librarian respectfully requests that the Friends of the Torrance Library provide funding to support the Library's adult cultural and informational programming for FY 2009-10 **in an amount not to exceed \$14,920**.

Background

The Friends have for many years generously sponsored programming for patrons of all ages presented at the six libraries, thus allowing the residents of the community the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of educational, cultural, and recreational programs that promote and fulfill the mission of the Torrance Public Library.

For the upcoming fiscal year, staff examined the feedback received from past program surveys and based on that analysis, the funding request for FY 2009-10 is as follows:

<u>Movie License</u>	\$4,920
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This is a renewal of the annual license from Movie Licensing USA, which allows the Library to present full-length feature films in support of its programs and services. The license covers all six libraries, and for as many movies as we wish to show. The Friends previously funded the purchase of the required projection and sound equipment that is transferred between the sites.

<u>Adult programs at Katy Geissert Civic Center Library</u>	\$7,000
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The Reference Services Division of the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library offers a variety of educational, informational, cultural and recreational programming. Thanks to the Friends of the Library and their generous funding, we were able to host several extraordinary and remarkable programs in 2008-09. These programs included:

Author Visits – Several programs featuring authors were presented. The library hosted author Jamie Ford, author of the New York Times bestselling title *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. Mr. Ford discussed his inspiration, shared his views on the creative process, and read selections from the book. In September, the library hosted Alex Moreno Areyan, author of *Mexican Americans in Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach*. He discussed his research and discoveries as he compiled his book about the century-old presence of Mexican Americans in these beach cities.

Project Renewment – On Wednesday, March 4, 2009, patrons were invited to hear the authors of *Project Renewment: The First Retirement Model for Career Women*, Bernice Bratter and Helen Dennis. The authors discussed a new kind of retirement model focusing on the opportunities for positive change and enlightenment during retirement instead of the traditional stereotypes and clichés associated with the term retirement.

Craft Programs – Craft programs have been very successful. The library has hosted programs on handmade origami, scrapbooking, and holiday card making. These events allow patrons to explore their creative side while learning something new. Many patrons who attended these programs expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to create a personalized craft. Each craft program fills up early and often has a waiting list.

Children of the Camps - On Saturday May 9, 2009, the library presented a screening of *Children of the Camps*, a documentary that captures the experiences of six Americans of Japanese ancestry who were confined as innocent children to internment camps by the U.S. government during World War II. The screening was hosted by the film's producer, Dr. Satsuki Ina. Over 200 people attended this event.

Making Sense of Investing – On Wednesday, May 6, 2009, the library invited local financial planner Michael Goguen to present a financial education program on investing. Patrons learned how political, economic, and cultural forces shape the markets and affect investors, and how to stay focused on long-term goals during a time of market and economic uncertainty. Over 50 people attended.

Secret Identities: The Asian American Superhero Anthology – In a program celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the library hosted the editors of *Secret Identities: The Asian American Superhero Anthology*. Recognizing the lack of Asian American representation in American comic books and graphic novels, Jeff Yang, Parry Shen, Keith Chow, Keiko Agena, and Jerry Ma brought together 66 top Asian American writers, artists, and comic professionals to create 26 original stories centered on Asian American superheroes. Each of these stories is part of the anthology *Secret Identities*. Patrons were invited to meet the editors, hear about the origins of the book, and purchase copies and have them signed by the presenters.

Future Programs

In addition to these programs, the Torrance Public Library will host some exemplary programs in the near future.

- On June 27, 2009, the library will host "Are We Running Dry?," a program about the future of water in California and the need for conservation.
- In the fall, the library will host the author of *Route 66: Lost and Found*, a book featuring Route 66 filling stations, main streets, motor courts, cafés, campgrounds, honky-tonks, truck stops, and barbecue joints as they appeared both in their heyday and today. The result is a remarkable contribution to the history of Route 66.

- Also in the fall, the library will present “Landscapes of Power: Royal and Imperial Gardens of France, India, and China”. Patrons will be invited on a virtual journey with Dr. Florence Baker, exploring the various gardening traditions of France, India and China. This presentation will focus on the French formal garden of Louis XIV at Versailles, the tomb gardens of the Indian Mughal Emperors including the Taj Mahal, and the Ming and Qing gardens of the Forbidden City and Beijing.

Branch Library Programming

\$3,000

The request allows the branch libraries to offer programs of interest to adults suitable to a small venue environment.

Conclusion

The continued generosity of the Friends to fund adult programming has enabled the Library to fulfill its mission to satisfy the educational, informational, cultural, and recreational needs of the community. As you know, all programs are free and open to the general public, and staff strives to incorporate a variety of unique experiences and perspectives that cannot be found elsewhere.

All programs tie back to the Library’s mission and have the goals of introducing new users to Library resources, providing opportunities for lifelong learning and personal development, and encouraging use of the Library as a community center, as well as fulfilling one of the City’s strategic goals to establish it as a center of culture for the South Bay.

Respectfully submitted,



Hillary Theyer
Principal Librarian

CONCUR:



Paula J. Weiner, City Librarian