Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, June 22, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: LIBRARY DIRECTOR MARTINEZ

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING $12,000 GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

Resolution accepting and appropriating $12,000 grant from the California State Library to offer virtual youth programming.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommends that the City Council accept a grant for $12,000 from the California State Library. This grant will provide library services as set forth in the LSTA Service Project Application as approved and/or as amended by the California State Librarian.

DISCUSSION:

The Watsonville Public Library was awarded a $12,000 grant from the California State Library to offer virtual youth programming. The Art-i-Tech program will provide a variety of programs, presentations, and hands-on workshops to meet the needs and desires of our youth, including:

Virtual Tutorials and How-to Videos: The Watsonville Library will create a series of tutorial videos in association with artist presentations, community collaborations and library programs to assist our patrons to follow along at home. This will include demonstrating Tinkercad 3D art, 3Doodle pens, as well as art and craft techniques. The creation of these videos will involve purchasing the appropriate tools and software so we can demonstrate the activity process or lesson, in an accessible way.

Technical and Virtual Tools Programs: Library Staff will be leading virtual classes teaching skills and software, such as Adobe Photoshop©, Adobe Premiere©, Podcast Production, and 3D design and printing. These interactive workshops will be coupled with hands-on lab opportunities for our youth to practice these new skills using grant purchased laptops, Adobe Photoshop© Adobe Premiere© and Podcast equipment, and filament for the 3D printer.

Student Created Original Content: A major goal for our youth librarians is to incorporate socio-emotional learning principles into our programming. For our Summer Reading

Program, we propose to recruit and train high school students to use software and technical tools provided by the library to create original virtual content that will live on our library's webpage.

Specifically, we will teach and enable our students to create two podcasts focused on local artists or luminaries. We will purchase fully enabled laptops and podcasting production equipment. Our long-term goal is to use this equipment to create a platform for our youth to create a series of virtual content. We can see these tools being used to support writing contests and public readings, highlight issues and identify marginalized groups in the community, and offer a platform, as well as promoting student activism and engagement.

Our long-term goal is to use the materials and tools acquired from this grant to significantly expand our library programming, to increase patron engagement, to create new opportunities to shine attention on marginalized groups in our community, and for our youth to have a platform to create and share their talents and abilities while learning new skills at the same time.

STRATEGIC PLAN:
This grant supports the Strategic Plan: 05-Community Engagement & Well-Being – Library Services & Programs.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
The grant from the California State Library will be awarded in one payment and will go directly towards purchasing the technology equipment to provide virtual youth programming.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:
If this grant is not accepted, the library will need to find alternative funding sources to complete the implementation of this program.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):
None.