



AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: August 3, 2010
Item Number: C-1
To: Honorable Beverly Hills Library Board of Trustees
From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services/City Librarian
Subject: ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BEVERLY HILLS LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Attachments: None

INTRODUCTION

City Ordinance No. 07-0-2537 established that the City Council would serve as the Board of Trustees for the Beverly Hills Public Library. This designation is a legal requirement of the State Education Code. Under this arrangement, the City Council is required to convene as the Beverly Hills Library Board of Trustees at least once per year to review the state of the library for the year ending the preceding June 30th. This report and the accompanying presentation recaps the activities of the library from the last fiscal year and discusses upcoming library initiatives and programs.

DISCUSSION

The State of California Education Code requires that every general law city have a library board. On 11/13/07, the Council adopted an ordinance which formally establishes the City Council as the Library Board of Trustees for Beverly Hills. Under the provisions of this ordinance, the City Council is required to meet at least once per year to review the status of the library for the previous fiscal year. This report and the accompanying presentation will briefly provide that update as well as establish some of the goals for the current fiscal year.

For fiscal year 2009-10:

Usage & Honors

- Had 571,231 visits by patrons, a 2% per hour increase over the previous year.
- Checked out and renewed 698,465 books, movies and CDs, an 8% per hour increase over the previous year.
- Answered over 144,000 reference questions, a 77% increase over the previous year.
- Had over 130,000 visits to the Library's web page, a 38% increase over the previous year.

- Accepted and processed over 2600 passport applications, which generated \$81,500 in revenue, a 44% increase over the previous year. Library revenues were \$556,090, up 8.8% over the previous year.
- Library was designated a 5 star library by Library Journal, placing the Library in the top three in the State and top 85 in the country.
- Library was awarded a PR Excellence Award by the California Library Association

Programming & Services

- Provided new programming for teens and adults, including the popular Life as a Visitor program with Angella Nazarian and Sydney Poitier. Initiated a new partnership with the LA Opera to provide a series of opera talks, an expanded computer training program, a very popular art history lecture series, author visits through a new partnership with Book Soup, a movie series in partnership with Whole Foods, and our new Teen Knitwits program sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
- Applied for, received and implemented our innovative Family Place program and center in the Children's area of the Library.
- Continued partnership with Profiles in History by offering an exhibit on Abraham Lincoln to celebrate the bicentennial of Lincoln's birthday and the recent exhibit called Mortal Presidency.
- Provided two displays on Beverly Hills history. One on Hobart Bosworth, famed actor in early motion pictures and Beverly Hills resident. The other entitled Beverly Hills: From Rancho to City which included photos and documents from the City's history as well as the contents of the time capsule which was unearthed at the site of the future Annenberg Center.
- Worked with the Friends to continue the homebound delivery of library materials to seniors and the Senior Library at Roxbury.

Facility improvements

- Implemented new signage throughout the facility
- Installed a new roof, recarpeted hallway leading to Auditorium
- Added new, more convenient shelving for the CDs and installed new public service desks on the second floor.

SMART Initiatives

- Initiated 90210toGo services which provides for downloadable e-books and e-audiobooks via the Library's web page to augment the e-resources that are available 24/7.
- Upgraded the integrated library system (the library's online catalog), upgraded the Library's Facebook page, continued our popular e-blasts and established a Twitter presence.
- Continued re-engineering library's collection of materials to meet the needs of library users. Initiated new ways of deploying staff to minimize public service impacts of budget reductions.

Department Collaborations

- Worked with the rest of the Community Services team to conduct a strategic audit of the department. Began implementing recommendations from the audit.
- Held our first Food for Fines program. Collected over 300 canned goods for the Westside Food Bank. Continued to collect food, clothing and personal items for distribution through to the homeless through the City's CLASP team.
- Partnered throughout the year with Homeless Collaboration and hosted monthly homeless outreach meetings to help connect clients with services.
- Transitioned security of the Library to the Park Rangers.
- Participated in a number of department wide efforts, including the Public Art party, development of Arts Master Plan and assuming support roles for the Fine Arts Commission.

The following are the goals for the fiscal year 10-11:

- Move forward with plans to renovate children's area of the library; provide for a centralized staff desk in the lobby and provide for efficiencies through space planning
- Implement first phase of RFID technology to facilitate self check in and check out of library materials by patrons.
- Work with Recreation and Parks to develop out next phase of the library at Roxbury Community Center.
- Initiate strategic plan for the Library focusing on the needs of local residents

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council, acting as the Beverly Hills Library Board of Trustees, accepts the report as presented by the Library staff.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By