



## **CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT**

**Meeting Date:** September 8, 2011  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services  
**Subject:** Proposal by the Friends of the Beverly Hills Library to support the Enchanted Woods room that is part of the proposed Library renovation.  
**Attachments:**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Staff and the Friends of the Library seek general direction from the City Council as to whether they can raise funds to support the Enchanted Woods room that is part of the proposed Library renovation. The funds would be used to support features of the Enchanted Woods room which are beyond the scope of the current project. Should the Council express interest in this general proposal, staff and the Friends will return to a future Council meeting with a more detailed plan on possible fundraising efforts.

### **DISCUSSION**

Over the decades of their existence, the Friends of the Library have donated the funding to support a fine collection of rare illustrated children's books to the children's area of the library which are called the Enchanted Woods collection. Long time library supporter Rita Lipkis founded this collection, which includes many classic fairy tales. Programs have been held over the years relating to this collection which introduce children and adults to the art of illustration and rare books.

As the room in question will house the library's collection of fairytales, it seems appropriate to name the space the Enchanted Woods in the spirit of this long tradition supported by the Friends.

The Friends of the Library are interested in conducting a fundraising campaign to provide for the furnishing, fixtures, equipment and artwork to be used in the proposed Enchanted Woods room. While there is funding available in the City's capital improvement budget to provide for basic furnishings in this room, the Friends desire to raise the funds to make this room a very special place for families to enjoy reading together. The funds would pay for higher quality furniture, fixtures and equipment for the room and also for the provision of some high quality art, such as the commission of an original mural having to do with the fairytale theme. If the Council is generally interested in pursuing this opportunity, the staff will work with the Friends to develop more fully the

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fundraising proposal and return to Council with additional information before moving forward.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None at this time.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council provide general feedback on the Friends of the Library's proposal to raise funds to support the Enchanted Woods room that is part of the proposed renovation of the Library's children's area.

  
Nancy Hunt-Coffey  
Approved By