



CITY OF CONCORD

Report to Council

FROM: Todd Fabian, Library Director

DATE: December 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Grant Approval from IMLS ARPA

Recommendation

Accept this report and adopt the attached resolution regarding the acceptance of reimbursement funds in the amount of \$18,771 from Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) subgrant round 2 and appropriate the sum of \$18,771 in the Grants and Donations fund for this purpose.

Background

The Concord Public Library created a "bike bookmobile" program to perform innovative outreach services across the City, serve and promote library services to new community members, and finally, to develop community partnerships that will enhance the quality of life for all of the City's citizens. In order to launch the program, the library will purchase (2) eBikes and (2) trailers from a local bike shop (S & W Sports), as well as the necessary riding and maintenance equipment. The bike shop is eager to partner with the library in the form of providing bike and trailer maintenance and event partnerships. The two "bookmobiles" are being fabricated by a company from Maine and will provide cargo capacity for materials, supplies, and equipment. The bookmobiles will be branded with the library's colors, logo, and a new slogan to capture community interest. As part of this grant we will also purchase two WiFi hot spots to travel with the bikes so that we can log on to our computer system and access the same data that we can in person at one of our facilities.

There is a tremendous amount of outreach opportunities in the City, beginning with a new partnership with the City's Parks & Recreation Department and S & W Sports. Library staff have been meeting with the department to discuss events that the bike bookmobile program can enhance. Some of these events include a haunted hike, Easter egg hunts, soccer jamboree(s) and games, picnics in the park (for older adults), and so forth. S & W Sports also participates in local events such as "bike rodeos" that they have identified as opportunities for the bike bookmobile program. Beyond these partnerships, the library has had great success with story times in the park this summer, attracting as many as 60 adults and children to these events. A bike bookmobile would add the ability to circulate and give away books at these events and promote

library services and resources. Annual events such as National Night Out, Market Days, Haunted Howl, and the City's Multicultural Festival are unique opportunities to reach new community members. The bike bookmobiles would be a fabulous resource at these events, allowing the library to promote literacy and library services. The library is also researching book delivery to local senior living facilities, and outreach to areas of the city with underserved populations.

Discussion

Library staff will order all of the materials outlined in the grant with the hope that we can have the program operational by the summer of 2022.

cc: City Manager