



Council Meeting: April 29, 2008

SUBJECT: Authorization to Accept and Expend \$2,500 in Grant Funds from the American Library Association and Nextbook for a *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* Reading and Discussion Series, and Budget Modification No. 44

REPORT IN BRIEF

The Library is requesting authorization to accept and expend \$2,500 for a *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* reading and discussion series made possible through a grant from Nextbook and the American Library Association (ALA). This grant will provide funds for a scholar and guest speakers to present literature programs on specific books at the Library. It will also provide for the purchase of a limited number of books and some publicity for the programs.

BACKGROUND

For the past three years, the American Library Association (ALA) and Nextbook have been funding grants at public and academic libraries throughout the United States for discussions of Jewish literature on various themes. In Santa Clara County, libraries in the San Jose Public Library and Santa Clara County Library systems have been previous recipients of the *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* reading and discussion grants.

Building on continuing interest and participation by Sunnyvale Library customers in programs for adults which include book discussions, author visits and cultural programs, Sunnyvale Public Library staff saw the *Let's Talk About It (LTAI)* grant as an opportunity to have a knowledgeable literature scholar present information and lead discussions on specific books, while encouraging City community members to be involved in culturally diverse programs.

EXISTING POLICY

Programs and Publications:

- Goal 6.2C Provide Library programs and publications to educate, enrich, and enlighten Library users
- Policy 6.2C.2 Provide programs for teens and adults to reflect and expand the broad range of interests of community residents

Action Statements:

- 6.2C.2a. Provide programs which emphasize the enjoyment of reading and enhancement of knowledge
- 6.2C.2d. Provide programs for teens and adults that reflect the cultural diversity of the community

DISCUSSION

Sunnyvale Public Library's project plan is to offer a local venue to discuss books that interest the general public and the Jewish population in Sunnyvale and surrounding communities, which includes many immigrants from Russia and Israel. It will build on participation in previous *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* grants that were offered in Santa Clara County through San Jose Public Library's King Library, Santa Clara County

Library's Los Altos Library and San Jose Public Library's West Valley Branch. Sunnyvale's participation will continue Jewish Literature book discussions and make them most accessible to Sunnyvale residents. The chosen theme, *Your Heart's Desire*, books on love and relationships in modern society, will appeal to an audience with a wide range of ages and interests. San Jose Public Library will assist with publicity as a grant partner and the other libraries in Santa Clara County will also help to publicize the programs and add to Sunnyvale Library's audience. Local synagogues and other Jewish organizations that support book discussion groups and adult education activities will be asked to help with publicity and invite their members to participate in the Library programs. The program is open to everyone. Previous programs offered by the Library have highlighted California writers, Black literature, poetry, mysteries, Hispanic literature and other specific themes or genres. Recently, the Library sponsored a program with writer, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, to the delight of over 140 people in the Library's program room. The *Let's Talk About It* series is another example of the Library's efforts to offer cross-cultural and culturally diverse programs.

Constraints in meeting the requirements for the grant process kept staff from adhering to the regular process of requesting Council permission before applying for the Nextbook/American Library Association grant.

FISCAL IMPACT

The ALA/Nextbook grant funds were awarded in the amount of \$2,500 in order to have a Jewish Literature scholar present and lead discussions at the Library on a selected series of books. Funds will be used for honorariums for the scholar and guest speakers, books and publicity for the programs. If approved, the grant award will be established as a special project for FY 2007/2008 to be completed in FY 2008/2009. The first program will be in July, 2008.

**Budget Modification No. 44
 Fiscal Year 2007/2008**

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Revised</u>
<u>Revenues</u>			
ALA/Nextbook Grant	0	\$2,500	\$2,500
<u>Expenditure</u>			
New Project – <i>Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature</i>	0	\$2,500	\$2,500

PUBLIC CONTACT

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk. The Board of Library Trustees reviewed the Report at their meeting on April 7, 2008.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council accepts \$2,500 in American Library Association/Nextbook grant funds for a *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* reading and discussion program and approves Budget Modification No. 44
2. Council rejects \$2,500 in American Library Association/Nextbook grant funds for a *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* reading and discussion program.
3. Other action as identified by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

At the April 7, 2008 Board of Library Trustees meeting, the Board voted unanimously to recommend to Council Alternative No. 1 which accepts \$2,500 in American Library Association/Nextbook grant funds for a *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* reading and discussion program and approves Budget Modification No. 44.

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1.

Reviewed by:

Deborah L. Barrow, Director, Libraries
Prepared by: Susan W. Denniston, Administrative Librarian

Mary Bradley, Director, Finance
Approved by:

Amy Chan
City Manager

Attachments

- A. Award Letter, American Library Association
- B. Draft Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2008

Attachment A

American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611-2795
USA

TDD 312 944 7298
<http://www.ala.org/publicprograms/>

Telephone 312-280-5045
Fax 312-280-5759
E-mail publicprograms@ala.org

ALA American Library Association

ALA PPO Grant #120307-10

February 1, 2008

Susan Denniston
Sunnyvale Public Library
665 W. Olive Street
Sunnyvale, CA 94086

Dear Susan:

We are pleased to award your library a grant in the amount of \$2,500 for the *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* project.

Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature has been developed by Nextbook and the American Library Association Public Programs Office. We look forward to working with you on this challenging and exciting initiative. Please carefully review the following attachments:

- **Grant Acceptance Form:** As soon as you sign and return the enclosed Grant Acceptance Form, a check will be requested in the amount of \$2,500 and sent under separate cover. The attached Grant Acceptance Form must be returned, via fax or post, by **February 22, 2008**.
- **Online Calendar Form:** Complete the attached Online Calendar Form in order to assure that your *Let's Talk About It* programs are listed on the ALA Public Programs Office calendar of events at www.ala.org/publicprograms and www.nextbook.org. Your Grant Acceptance Form will not be processed unless the Online Calendar Form is returned.
- **Project Director Information Form:** Attendance by your library's project director at the training workshop is mandatory; workshop expenses (including travel, accommodation, and some meals) for the project director are paid by your library's project grant. The training workshop will be held April 2 & 3, 2008 at the Hyatt at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. Complete the attached Project Director Information Form and return it with your Grant Acceptance Form no later than **February 22, 2008**.
- **Scholar Attendee Information Form:** Attendance by your library's project scholar is encouraged, but optional. If your library plans to bring the scholar, please complete the attached Scholar Attendee Information Form and return with the Grant Acceptance Form. Travel expenses for your scholar are to be paid by your library grant or other funding source, as you wish.
- **Workshop & Hotel Information Sheet:** The attached Workshop & Hotel Information Sheet provides an overview of the where, when and how of the training workshop. A detailed agenda for the workshop

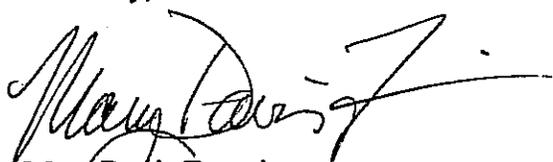
will be sent to you in March. **Note: All hotel reservations must be made by Friday, February 29, 2008.**

- **Reporting & Evaluation Form:** After your library's *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* programs have been completed you must submit two copies of the attached Grant Reporting and Evaluation Form and all related support materials by **60 days following the completion of the last program or May 30, 2009.**

Sponsor Credit: You are required to credit program sponsors and funders in all print materials and verbally at programs with the following credit line: *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature, a reading and discussion series has been made possible through a grant from Nextbook and the American Library Association.*

Once again, congratulations and welcome to the *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* project. Feel free to contact me at any time to discuss the project – we'd love to hear how it's going and are happy to help any way we can.

Sincerely,



Mary Davis Fournier
Project Director
Public Programs Office

Attachments:

- Grant Acceptance Form
- Online Calendar Form
- Project Director Information Form
- Scholar Attendee Information Form
- Workshop and Hotel Information Sheet
- Grant Reporting and Evaluation Form

Attachment B

2. Draft RTC: Agreement Between the City of Sunnyvale and the Friends of the Sunnyvale Public Library for FY 2008/09 – FY 2010/11:

Administrative Librarian Steve Sloan provided the Board with an overview of the RTC and noted significant provisions in the agreement. Discussion ensued regarding distribution of funds.

Chair Griffith opened the public hearing, and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

Vice Chair Lilly moved, and Boardmember Su seconded, to recommend to Council Alternative No. 1 which approves the three-year agreement between the City and the Friends of the Sunnyvale Public Library, depicted by Attachment A, and authorizes the City Manager to enter into the agreement by June 30, 2008. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Draft RTC: Authorization to Accept and Expend \$2,500 in Grant Funds from the American Library Association and Nextbook for a *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* Reading and Discussion Series, and Budget Modification No. 44:

Administrative Librarian Susan Denniston provided the Board with a brief overview of the RTC and grant. Discussion ensued regarding publicity for the program.

Chair Griffith opened the public hearing and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

Boardmember Pathak moved, and Vice Chair Lilly seconded, to recommend to Council Alternative No. 1 which accepts \$2,500 in American Library Association/Nextbook grant funds for a *Let's Talk About It: Jewish Literature* reading and discussion program and approves Budget Modification No. 44. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Status on Study and Budget Issues:

Director Barrow distributed copies of budget supplements for the 1) Elimination of the Library's Reserve Fee and 2) Cost/Benefit of Implementing an RFID/Automated Materials Handling System for Returned Library Materials. She provided an overview on the status of the two budget issues.

Director Barrow also provided an overview on the status of the branch library study issue. A community forum to discuss the study issue will be held on Thursday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Program Room. Sam McBane Mulford will facilitate the community meeting.

Chair Griffith opened the public hearing and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

5. Legislative Issues Discussion:

This year's annual Library Legislative Day will be held on Wednesday, April 16 at the Sacramento Convention Center. Chair Griffith and Administrative Librarian Steve Sloan will