San Mateo County Libraries

Agenda Item III. C.

To:	JPA Governing Board
From:	Anne-Marie Despain, Director of Library Services
	Raquel España, Development Manager
Date:	September 15, 2020
Meeting:	September 21, 2020
Re:	Grant and Fundraising Report for FY 2019-20

Background

On February 6, 2006, the JPA Governing Board authorized the Library Director to approve the acceptance of grants as stated in Article II of the Bylaws for the San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority (Library JPA). Article II states that the JPA shall, "Authorize the submission of applications for federal, state, local, and private grants and approve acceptance of such grants as are received, and allow for the delegation of this responsibility to the Library Director" and "Accept contributions, or authorize the Library Director to accept contributions, of money or property to the Library system and make appropriations in accordance with any limitations imposed by the contributors on the appropriate distribution and use of such gifts, and the Library JPA budget."

An annual report is provided to the Library JPA Operations Committee and Governing Board summarizing grants accepted during the fiscal year.

Discussion

Grant opportunities present themselves throughout the year and range from small grants designed to support activities at one library, to larger grants that support system-wide initiatives. While we actively seek grant support for existing and approved major initiatives, as a matter of practice, the organization does not apply for grants that establish new programs that will require ongoing funding requirements.

During the period of July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020, the Library JPA received five grants:

- $250,000 from the California State Library to support The Big Lift Inspiring Summers program. This grant supported the inclusion of rising third graders in the program, including science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) and literacy curriculum; staff costs; and family engagement field trips. Due to COVID-19, funds originally designated for field trips were used to supplement outdoor classroom supplies and at-home books.

- $52,000 from Human Services Agency of San Mateo County to support the The Big Lift Inspiring Summers program. The funds were used to create and distribute STEAM kits to over 1,000 rising kindergarten through third grade students that initially registered for

the Inspiring Summers program. Each kit corresponded to a STEAM curated set of videos created by staff to adapt to the new virtual learning environment.

- $35,000 from the California State Library to support family literacy programming for The Big Lift Inspiring Summers families. The grant provided each family with a comprehension box, age appropriate books for youth, and a parent/caregiver set of books. It also included the creation of virtual family workshops that were provided weekly to families in English and Spanish.
- $54,000 from the California State Library to support ongoing adult literacy efforts in the East Palo Alto and Half Moon Bay Libraries. The literacy program recruits, trains, and supports literacy volunteers, providing learner-centered one-on-one or small group tutoring. In addition, the adult literacy program meets community needs by offering English conversation groups for English learners.
- $13,900 from the California State Library to enhance Lunch at the Library programs. This grant initially was intended to support the expansion of meals at Half Moon Bay. Due to COVID-19, it was adjusted to support take home learning kits for sites in East Palo Alto, Pescadero, and Colma. The thematic kits included materials for STEAM, sports, or games.

The total grant revenue in FY 19-20 was $406,900. For comparison, in FY 2018-19 we received $347,950, and in FY 17-18 we received $119,640.

As outlined in the Library JPA Agreement, the Governing Board is authorized to form and appropriately associate with one or more nonprofit organizations devoted to developing additional resources and funds to enhance operations and support San Mateo County Libraries.

Our ten Friends of the Library groups provided a total of $108,800 to support local library programs and services. Programs included musical concerts, youth afterschool programs, special events and family activities.

The Foundation for San Mateo County Libraries was established in 2018 to complement the work of the Friends and focus on supporting systemwide initiatives and capital projects. In 2019-20, the Foundation has raised $114,000, including $50,000 from Sunlight Giving to support the Brisbane Children's Area, $5,000 from Palo Alto Weekly Fund to support East Palo Alto Library, $5,000 for Community Engagement, and $39,000 in general support.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with accepting this report.

Recommendation

Recommend Library JPA Governing Board accept the Grant and Fundraising Report for FY 2019-20. Operations Committee members present at the September 15, 2020 meeting concurred with this recommendation.