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 14, 2021
Meeting:	September 20, 2021
Re:	Grant and Fundraising Report for FY 2020-21

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, 2020 – June 30, 2021, the Library JPA received eight grants:

<u>Youth Programming</u>

- $99,925 from the California State Library to support The Big Lift Inspiring Summers program. This grant focused on supporting the addition of rising third graders and the training of library staff in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) and literacy curriculum.

- $42,000 from the California State Library to support the Big Lift Inspiring Summers families. The family literacy grant provided each family with a comprehension box and books for youth and parents/caregivers.

- $12,000 from the California State Library for Families Create. This program was a virtual interactive summer learning experience for youth that provided take home kits and corresponding virtual programs for families to engage and create together.

Community Meals

- $6,500 from the California State Library to enhance our Lunch at the Library programs. This grant supported take home learning kits distributed at our community meal sites in East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay, Pescadero, and Colma for summer 2020.

- $5,000 from Second Harvest Food Bank to support the addition of adult meals in East Palo Alto and Pescadero.

Pandemic Response

- $50,000 from the San Mateo County Office of Community Affairs to provide ongoing outreach and up to date information on Covid and public resources to designated communities. Activities included library blogs and social media posts, the purchase and distribution of books on Covid and informational bookmarks, and support for vaccine registration and rent relief assistance.

- $1,343 from the San Mateo County Office of Sustainability to provide ergonomic computer supplies to staff to support remote work during the pandemic.

Literacy Efforts

- $44,515 from the California State Library to support ongoing adult literacy efforts. The literacy program recruits, trains, and supports literacy volunteers, providing learner-centered one-on-one or small group tutoring. This year, tutoring became virtual, and the funds ensured continuing learners had the technology they needed to be successful.

The total grant revenue in FY 2020-21 was $241,283. For comparison, in FY 2019-20 we received $406,900, and in FY 2018-19 we received $347,950.

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. San Mateo County Libraries is fortunate to have the strong support of ten Friends of the Library groups and a Foundation.

Due to the pandemic, libraries did not submit a budget request to our Friends this year. However, the Friends of the Half Moon Bay Library donated $45,810 to support additional Wi-Fi hotspots and increases in meals and programs; the Friends of the Millbrae Library donated $24,100 to support Wi-Fi Hotspots and programming; and the Friends of the Woodside Library donated $5,000 to support systemwide programming.

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. The Foundation donated $40,000 this year to support The Big Lift Inspiring Summers program; $50,000 from Sunlight Giving to support the new Brisbane Library children's play installment; $100,000 from Gilead Foundation to support the Makermobile, $9,960 from Genentech for Make & Take Kits, $6,604 to support staff engagement and service awards and $5,000 from Palo Alto Weekly Fund to East Palo Alto Library.

Total donations received from the Friends and Foundation in FY 2020-21 was $286,474. For comparison, in FY 2019-20 we received $108,800, and in FY 2018-19 we received $255,465.

In FY 2021-22, we will work with the Friends and Foundation to focus on seeking grants and fundraising support for new library projects in East Palo Alto and Pacifica; Makerspace projects in Belmont, Foster City and Millbrae; digital equity and technology initiatives; sustainability programs; out of school engagement for kids and teens; social emotional community supports; and other pandemic recovery efforts. Library staff continues to monitor and apply for state, federal and private grant opportunities.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with accepting this report.

Recommendation

Recommend JPA Governing Board accept the Grant and Fundraising Report for FY 2020-21. Operations Committee members present at the September 14, 2021 meeting concurred with this recommendation.