



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: September 01, 2020
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: 4/5 Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805-568-2467)
Director(s)
Contact Info: Sarah York Rubin, Office of Arts & Culture Executive Director
(805-568-3992)

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Spanish-English Story Machines and Maintenance Donation

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

- A. Accept the donation of two (2) bilingual Short Edition Short Story Art Machines, valued at \$16,065 in total, from the Morris B. Squire Foundation.
- B. Accept the donation of \$4,475 to support operating costs for the Short Edition Machines from the Morris B. Squire Foundation.
- C. Approve the attached Budget Revision Request that accounts for the donations.
- D. Determine that the recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that the acceptance of the donations of art equipment are covered by the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary Text:

In June 2020, the Morris B. Squire Foundation offered to donate two Short Edition Short Story Machines to the Santa Barbara County Office of Arts and Culture (SBCOAC). One machine is bilingual (Spanish-English) and one is English language. The machines have 3G and Ethernet connectivity to cloud-based software. The SBCOAC had previously facilitated the placement of one machine in the

Santa Barbara Public Market. These machines would be available through the SBCOAC for community placements and partnerships, and are anticipated in 2020-21 to be situated with the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department and the City of Goleta Public Library for a potential placement in Isla Vista. Future placement hosts would be responsible for covering costs for paper and ink materials costs. Both machines currently include paper and ink.

Background:

Short Story Dispenser Machines deliver free poems and short stories to the public and support communal storytelling with a push button or optional motion sensor. The Dispenser Machines connect readers and writers across countries and cultures. There can also be options for communities, such as schools, to create content for the machines. This innovative design provides people with literary experiences and have been exhibited in airports, public transit stations, libraries, cafes, universities and wineries. The staff recommendation is to accept the donation. Staff believes they would be an asset to the County community.

The Dispenser Machines are in excellent condition and one has never been used. The material donation is valued at \$16,065. The Foundation is offering a corresponding cash donation for ongoing maintenance expenses in the amount of \$4,475.

Under the terms of the donation, the County is not obligated to pay for maintenance, upkeep or a subscription to the service provider for the machines.

Risk Management has evaluated the County Insurance premiums and determined that accepting these donations would have no impact on the County Insurance premiums or cost.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Upon Receipt of Budget Revision Request #0007190

Fiscal Analysis:

There is no impact on the County's General Fund Contribution to the Arts Commission as a result of execution of this Gift Agreement. There is no subscription required to own the machines; however, to operate the machines, a service subscription is required at the cost of \$160 per month. Any subscription purchase for the initial two years would be covered by the \$4,475 donation.

Special Instructions:

Please send an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Sarah York Rubin at sarah@sbac.ca.gov.

Attachments:

- a.) Photograph of Short Edition Story Machines
- b.) Original Machine Receipts of Purchase by Squire Foundation
- c.) Budget Revision Request

Authored by:

Sarah York Rubin, Office of Arts and Culture (805-568-3992)