CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 28, 2015
AGENDA ITEM #: 11A
ITEM: STATE LIBRARY FUNDING ISSUES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Commissioners will address the State Library funding.
April 21, 2015

Honorable Edmond G. Brown Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Room 1173
Sacramento CA 95814

Subject: Literacy Investment Increase Needed

Dear Governor Brown:

A literate citizenry is essential for success in the 21st century workplace as well as competing and contributing to the world and the State’s economy.

However, there are thousands of adult Californians who can not learn to read at their local public library due to insufficient funding from the State. These adults are not served through Adult Education; as they are the least literate who rely on assistance from their local public library who are not ready to be served by adult Education.

In the past fiscal year, within the Contra Costa County Public Library system, 250 adults have learned to read of whom 50 came from Concord, however, 41 remain on a waiting list.

On behalf of all our residents who want to learn to read and increase their participation in our economy, please increase the literacy investment in the May Revise to your FY 2015-16 budget for the public library programs.

Please remember that educated and literate citizens cause far less crime and pay more in taxes. As a result, a modest increase in this funding will increase the general fund as well as reducing costs to the criminal justice system and public assistance systems.

Thank you for assisting California’s public libraries to grow our economy.

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Grayson
Mayor, City of Concord

cc: Concord City Council
    Alan Smith, Contra Costa Library
    Jason Gonsalves
April 21, 2015

Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The United State House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0511

Subject: Preserve IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Service)

Dear Congressman DeSaulnier:

On behalf of the residents of Concord, California, I am writing to request your assistance in preserving IMLS. Recently the House Budget committee has proposed its elimination.

Through grant making and federal funding, IMLS supports lifelong learning and innovative library programs throughout the country. This past fiscal year, the Contra Costa County Library received nearly $120,000 in grants from IMLS.

The Contra Costa County Library usage continues to grow each year (over 4 million visits last year) including providing homework assistance to students, helping with job searches, resume writing and providing the information our residents need to navigate this complex economy.

In 2012, the Contra Costa County Library was named one of the ten best libraries in the country. The award press released included the development of “Snap & Go,” a smart phone application using a Quick Response (QR) code that allows the library’s card carrying commuters to have access to e-books, the catalogue and other features when and where they want them.

With over 1.5 billion library visits a year, it is essential IMLS be preserved so that public libraries can continue to serve their local community.

Thank you for your long dedication to supporting public libraries and for working to preserve IMLS.

Sincerely,

Timothy S. Grayson
Mayor, City of Concord

cc: Concord City Council
Alan Smith, Contra Costa Library
Jason Gonsalves
2015 CPLA WORKSHOP NOTES
“Desire to Aspire: Helping Our Libraries Achieve Greater Success in the Community”
Prepared by Alan B. Smith
March 29, 2015

1. Saratoga library – located in historic orchard – to preserve the city’s roots. Much like a park – paths through the trees. Saw many people walking through it like a park.
   • Tiles in walk way with donor names.
   • One wall has what looks like a book shelf. However, it looks like the ends of books. Only they are about two inches thick and have Friends donor names. Very eye catching.
   • Four of the five city council members came to welcome us. The vice mayor said the mayor was cut dedicating a new trail and so he the vice mayor won to come to the library.
   • Patrick Aaron, staff to new Assembly member Evan Low spoke. Said he has never forgotten getting his first library card and being able to walk out with so many books – for free. Said Low wants to increase literacy funding in libraries.

2. State Librarian Greg Lucas.
   • While CLA ASK is $2M, he wants to get $4M. Adult Ed won’t take you if you are not at least at the 5th grade level. Thinks there is more receptiveness to increasing funding this year. He is getting the – well it is a trade off – do we fund this or...?
   • Strongly supports the CENIC project. Gave example of Cheryl Baker in Modoc Co. Will go from 5 meg to 50. When asked on the equipment she needs she just signed the application and said – you tell me. He used this as an example of how far behind some libraries are. This is a library I have trained twice and can attest to this. Her office is a cubby hole with only a curtain for privacy.
   • Has no idea where sB683 (Wolk) will go. He is soon putting up a needs assessment on the state library website. Last assessment said $6billion in needs So he said well let’s start there! May not get to ballot until 2018.
   • Lives in Auburn. Personal cell is 916.420.6336.

3. Reese Isbel eight years district director for Senator Leno.
   • 10 years ago said 3mails were not liked. But now ok. Easy to manage as staff can put them in computer folders. Where do I put a piece of paper? However, a hand written note...
   • When you meet stick to one subject. Don’t come in trying to discuss 4-5 issues. And never take it personal if staff or the elected disagree with you. You may be allies on another issue.
• Do not waste time with on-line petitions such as Cjamge.org. When you are a CA state senator ou do not care about opinions from other states.

4. Susan Hildreth, ED Pacific Library Partnership (PLS, BALIS etc.) and CALIFA.
   • Glad to be back in CA. Talked about the Aspen Institute report on the Future of Libraries. Willing to come out and make presentation.
   • Said threat by Congress to eliminate IMLS has been tried for several years.
TOUR/ORIENTATION

FOR NEW CALIFORNIA SENATE AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

April 29, 2015

Background/History of Library Services for the Blind, Visually Impaired, and Otherwise Print Disabled Persons in California

In 1904 the California State Library established the "Books for the Blind" program in Sacramento. In that year, the California State Library (CSL) became one of a small group of libraries around the nation to recognize the importance of circulating braille books to blind and visually impaired patrons. In 1919, the nonprofit rehabilitation agency Braille Institute of America was founded, including a library serving blind and visually impaired readers in Southern California with braille books. On March 3, 1931, President Herbert Hoover signed the Pratt-Smoot Act. This act established the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), a division of the Library of Congress. In that year, 19 state libraries, including the California State Library (CSL) and the Braille Institute of America Library (BIA), joined this newly established network of regional libraries serving the blind and physically handicapped. Since its inception, the NLS network of libraries serving the blind has grown to include over 100 regional and subregional libraries, adding services to children in 1952, music services in 1962, and incorporating physical disabilities (including organic reading disabilities such as dyslexia) in 1966. Circulation of Talking books and magazines on 33 1/3 RPM records to NLS patrons nationwide began in 1934, with the format changing to cassette tape books in 1971 and flash memory (digital) cartridges in 2009.

Several geographically large states, including California, have more than one regional library, and many, like California have subregional libraries. A sub-regional library is generally a public library (city, county, or multicounty, but in some cases can be a non-governmental organization (NGO), i.e. community center or low vision support center, etc.) serving a minimum of 200 readers in a specific
area in cooperation with its regional library for the blind and physically handicapped. Today, the Braille and Talking Book Library (BTBL) in Sacramento serves as the northern California regional library for NLS, with close to 10,000 individual patrons and 300 institutions in 48 northern California counties. The 10 heavily populated counties in southern California are served by a second NLS regional library, the Braille Institute Library in Los Angeles which currently assists close to 30,000 individual patrons and 1,500 institutions.

San Francisco County residents are served by an NLS sub-regional library—Library for the Blind and Print Disabled, a library branch operated by San Francisco Public Library, established in 1972 which currently aids nearly 800 individual patrons and 100 institutions. The Talking Book Library for the Blind, a library branch operated by Fresno County Public Library, established in 1975, currently serves close to 1,500 individual patrons and 76 institutions in Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties.

Library Service

NLS Network libraries in California have a mission to serve blind and physically disabled patrons by providing library materials that are equivalent to the same materials available to non-disabled California residents, i.e. the equivalent of a public library collection for Californians with print disabilities. These programs enable blind and physically disabled Californians to read books, magazines, and newspapers in braille, cassette, and digital cartridge formats, and allow eligible patrons to download reading material directly to free NLS digital players as well as smart phones and tablets via BARD (the Braille and Audio Reading Download service). NLS network libraries in California offer additional services such as the provision of reference and information referral, interlibrary loan in specialized formats, loans of described major motion pictures and television programs, assistive technology in the library, hosting of adaptive hardware and assistive technology vendor fairs, etc.

For the federal fiscal year ending on September 30, 2014, circulation of materials for the four NLS network libraries in California were broken down as follows:

Circulation Statistics for Federal Fiscal Year 2014
(October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Braille and Talking Books/Descriptive Videos</th>
<th>Downloaded Audio and Electronic Braille Books/Magazines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BTBL (Sacramento)</td>
<td>449,325</td>
<td>159,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA/ (Los Angeles)</td>
<td>762,407</td>
<td>207,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TBLR Bakersfield</td>
<td>64,340</td>
<td>12,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EBPL San Francisco</td>
<td>3,489</td>
<td>8,846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To find more information about each NLS Network Library in California, see:

http://pd.library.ca.gov
April 24, 2015

Jessica Hudson, County Librarian
Contra Costa County Library
1750 Oak Park Blvd.
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-4497

Dear Jessica:

Within 15 years, one in five Californians will be 65 years of age or older. That means more and more of our residents will find it difficult to be able to read print books, magazines, and newspapers.

The California State Library has established a new, one-stop discovery resource for Californians interested in free library services to people with print disabilities.

The new web page, Library Services for People with Print Disabilities, allows California's blind, low-vision and otherwise print-disabled individuals — and the organizations and institutions who serve them — to select a county of residence and be directed to the appropriate National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Network Regional or Subregional library serving their geographical area.

These libraries provide Braille and audio books and magazines, audio playback equipment and descriptive videos at no charge to blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled individuals — such as people with dyslexia and other organic reading disabilities or those physically unable to read conventional print.

To assist in this campaign, please include the following link on your library's website:
http://pd.library.ca.gov

Here's a descriptor you can use with the URL:
"California's Library Services for People with Print Disabilities, in association with the Library of Congress, provides free Braille and audio books, magazines and playback equipment to all eligible Californians unable to read standard print. Follow the link to find your local braille and talking book library and sign up for free library service."

Please share this URL with your branch staff, your Friends organizations, your library trustees and commissioners, and relevant stakeholders in your service area. Contact my office for further information.

Please let us know when the web link is up. Thanks in advance for your help.

Respectfully yours,

Greg Lucas
California State Librarian

Library — Courts Building
P.O. Box 942837
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001

916-323-9759
csl-adm@library.ca.gov
www.library.ca.gov
Contra Costa county Letterhead

John Gioia
Chair, Board of Supervisors

June XX, 2015

The Honorable Mark DeSaulnier
The United State House of Representatives
327 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-0511

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Thank you Mark, for your long dedication to supporting public libraries and for working to preserve IMLS.

Best regards,

John Gioia, Chair
CC: Representative Jerry McNerney
    Representative Eric Swalwell
    Representative Mike Thompson

    Board of Supervisors
    David Twa, CAO
    Contra Costa County Library Commissioners