



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Library

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ramiro Salazar

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

NASA @ My Library: A National Earth and Space Science Initiative that Connects NASA, Public Libraries, and their Communities

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) to be a sub-recipient and the acceptance of funds, for services offered by the SAPL. SAPL is serving as a contractor for this specific grant application. Space Science Institute (SSI) drafted and submitted the grant application to NASA for this grant. SAPL did not serve as a contractor in or receive funding from the original grant project - but is serving as a contractor for and receiving funding from the augmentation grant.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In 2017, SSI reached approximately 7,000 public libraries with 2.1 million eclipse glasses, programming, and subject matter expert support. Approximately 1.75 million people were reached by these programs. Science Mission Directorate (SMD) was instrumental to this program, providing access to subject matter experts, access to community partnership opportunities, and enhancing training activities for library staff to include vetted NASA content.

With a new, expanded grant from Moore, the SSI team is currently distributing eclipse glasses to

libraries and providing in-person training through state library agencies in each US state and territory. The proposed NASA@ My Library augmentation is a low cost, low risk, and high impact opportunity that will inject NASA science into those interactions, and make sure they are available to Spanish speaking families.

ISSUE:

This action is consistent with City Council guidance to accept appropriate State/Federal grant funds. Funding provided by this grant opportunity will support the SSI and Planetary Institute teams in working with 3 public libraries in the convergence of the eclipse paths to co-develop Spanish-language resources featuring NASA content, showcasing Science Activation projects, and providing opportunities for libraries with a large percentage of Spanish speakers to receive bilingual Solar Science Kits that can be used prior to the 2023/2024 eclipses, and beyond. The primary objective of the grant that SAPL will have responsibility of is co-development of bilingual, culturally responsive, library appropriate hands-on activities, videos, training materials and kits. This program benefits Bexar County residents by providing access to additional opportunities and resources to increase their knowledge about astronomy. The Library will coordinate with the Finance Department to ensure proper accounting of all reimbursements under this grant.

ALTERNATIVES:

No other grant funding is available to support this program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This ordinance authorizes the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) to be a sub-recipient and the acceptance of funds for services offered by the SAPL. There is no negative impact to the City's General Fund. The total amount of funding will be \$25,000 across a three-year term through November 30, 2025, of which \$10,000 will be allocated in the first year.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends authorizing the San Antonio Public Library to be a sub-recipient and the acceptance of funds.