



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 9/24/2013

Agenda Placement: 7G

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Kreimeier, Danis - Director
Library
REPORT BY: ANTHONY HALSTEAD, ASST DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SVCS - 253-4061
SUBJECT: Out of Country Travel

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Library Services and Community Outreach requests authorization for out-of-country travel for Kelli Crouch, Librarian II, and John Thill, Librarian I, to attend the Guadalajara Book Fair in Guadalajara, Mexico, from December 1 through December 5, 2013 for an estimated cost of \$2,000 with additional funding for this conference paid for by the American Library Association's ALA-FIL Free Pass Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Director of Library Services and Community Outreach is requesting permission for out-of-country travel for Librarians Kelli Crouch and John Thill to attend the Guadalajara Book Fair on December 1 - 5, 2013, in Guadalajara, Mexico. Both library staff have received the American Library Association Free Pass, which pays for \$100 each toward air fare, all entry fees and all accommodations.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	The Library has budgeted \$2000 for the travel expenses. Accommodations are paid by the American Library Fast Pass, for which both library staff members applied. These applications were accepted and both staff members were awarded the Fast Pass.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

Discretionary Justification:	Napa County Library has a goal of providing the materials that citizens want and need, and that includes materials in Spanish for the Spanish-speaking citizens of the County. The Guadalajara Book Fair is the primary international source for materials in the Spanish language, and both of the bilingual library staff members attending this event are involved in selecting these materials for the library.
Is the general fund affected?	No
Future fiscal impact:	None.
Consequences if not approved:	Spanish-speaking citizens of Napa County will not have the library materials they want and need, and it will be difficult for the Library to fulfill its goal of outreach to the Spanish-speaking community.
Additional Information:	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Guadalajara Book Fair, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, is one of the best international sources for Spanish materials. It offers an important venue for showcasing books, periodicals and journals, newspapers and other publications in the Spanish language. As the Napa County Library's mission is to enrich the lives of all Napa County citizens with books and information, citizens who need materials in Spanish are an important population that the Library needs to reach.

In 2010 two members of the Library staff attended the Guadalajara Book Fair. In the adult book collection, they purchased 154 titles. Those books now make up over 17% of our adult Spanish book circulation even though they represent only 9% of the total collection size.

Kelli Crouch and John Thill are assigned to provide Spanish services and improve the Library's adult and children's Spanish language collections. It is difficult to find appropriate Spanish materials through the Library's normal means of purchasing. Local distributors do not meet the need for Spanish materials for the following reasons:

1. The library's main distributors for materials have a poor record of stocking popular items. At any given time the library's two major distributors usually stock less than half of Mexican bestsellers.
2. The distributors tend to ignore popular book categories that have demonstrated high circulation patterns (cookbooks, books on sports, etc.).
3. The major distributors have an undue focus on materials dealing with Cuba and the Cuban diaspora, which are not demographically relevant to Napa's Spanish-speaking population.
4. Local distributors fail to carry good regional materials dealing with locations such as Michoacan, Oaxaca and Zacatecas, areas from which the majority of Napa County's Spanish-speaking residents immigrated.

In order to ensure continued enrichment of the Spanish collection, the Director of Library Services and Community

Outreach believes attendance at this conference will result in a better Spanish collection that will be more responsive to the needs of Napa County's Spanish-speaking citizens. The Guadalajara Book Fair will allow both library staff members access to a wide selection of materials to purchase for the Napa Main Library and its branches in American Canyon, Calistoga, and Yountville. The library has budgeted for airfare and accommodations for these two library staff members to attend the conference; however, the cost will be reduced as both staff members applied for and received the American Library Association Free Pass, which provides support for two attendees. This support covers conference registration, 3 nights at their designated hotel and breakfast during their stay plus \$100 towards their airfare and an additional \$100 towards other expenses, courtesy of the Guadalajara Book Fair organizers.

Additionally, we have met with County Housing Authority staff and visited each of the Farmworker Centers in Napa County. Our intent is to use Guadalajara selections to help build on-site services within each of these locations. Funding for some or all of the materials and other necessary items for this service would come from the County Housing Authority's own sources. This fills a need that our library's locations cannot due to resident travel limitations.

Attendance at this conference will result in a better Spanish collection that will be more responsive to the needs of Napa County's Spanish-speaking citizens and will build upon the successful development of the collection increasing the use of library services among Napa constituents who prefer to use materials written in their native language.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi