



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**#22-0975**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**DATE:** November 1, 2022

**TITLE:** Motion Approving a First Amendment to Strategic Alliance Agreement  
Relating to Book Explorers Reading Mentors Program between The  
Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, Inc., and the City of Fort  
Lauderdale - (**Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4**)

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a First Amendment to Strategic Alliance Agreement Relating to Book Explorers Reading Mentors Program between The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, Inc., and the City of Fort Lauderdale, in substantially the form attached.

**Background**

On February 1, 2022, the City Commission approved a Strategic Alliance Agreement with the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy, Inc. to implement the Book Explorers Program through the Parks & Recreation Department's PLAY aftercare program. The amendment extends the terms of the grant through June 3, 2023, and includes funding for program implementation at three Parks & Recreation community centers.

The Book Explorers Reading Program is an online literacy program that pairs students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades with a reading mentor through the Parks and Recreation PLAY afterschool program. Reading mentors use targeted strategies and activities to build their mentees' literacy skills and confidence. The grant provides program administrator stipends, curriculum, and resources, including digital access to fiction, nonfiction, and culturally responsive books. Mentor guides with structured lessons, parent guides with reading strategies and comprehensive training for mentors and program advisors.

The Book Explorers Reading Program started in 2022 and served 40 children at Bass Park, Osswald Park, Warfield Park and Carter Park. Data from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party state-wide evaluation found that mentees reported positive impressions of Book Explorers with 80% indicating they enjoyed being in the program. When asked to evaluate the books they read with their mentor, 92% of mentees indicated they liked the books "every time." Mentees also reported positive impressions of their mentor, noting that their mentor made them feel important (88%) and helped them become a better reader (68%). At the end of

the program, mentees completing surveys unanimously felt that their friends would like to be in Book Explorers, because “it was fun” and “because they got to learn to read.”

The amendment to the Strategic Alliance Agreement with the Barbara Bush Foundation extends the terms of the grant through June 3, 2023 and will be made available to children enrolled in the PLAY aftercare program at Riverland Park, Croissant Park and Warfield Park.

**Resource Impact**

This action will result in a fiscal impact of \$3,000 dollars which is reimbursable by the Barbara Bush Foundation and is contingent upon the approval of CAM 22-0894.

Source:

<i>Funds available as of October 24, 2022</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-512-337-700-22GBBFFL	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy	Intergovernmental Revenues/ Local Government Unit Grant - Culture/Recreation	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT →</b>					<b>\$3,000</b>

Use:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME	CHARACTER CODE/ ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-512-30-3299-22GBBFFL	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy	Services/ Materials/ Other Services	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT →</b>					<b>\$3,000</b>

**Strategic Connections**

This item is a 2022 Top Commission Priority, advancing the Workforce and Education Priority.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaging community
- Objective: Offer a diverse range of recreational and educational programming.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Community.

**Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Strategic Alliance Agreement Relating to Book Explorers Reading Mentors Program

Exhibit 2 – First Amendment to Strategic Alliance Agreement Relating to Book Explorers Reading Mentors Program

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Prepared by: Zoie Saunders and Luisa Agathon, Neighbor Support Division

Charter Officer: Greg Chavarria, City Manager