



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

**#23-1073**

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

**FROM:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**DATE:** December 5, 2023

**TITLE:** Motion Approving a Second 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 2, 3, and 4**)

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a Second 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.

**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 second amendment extends the terms of the grant through June 7, 2024, 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 was first implemented in 2022 and again in 2023, serving 70 children through the PLAY aftercare programs. 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 second amendment to the Strategic Alliance Agreement with the Barbara Bush Foundation extends the terms of the grant through June 7, 2024. In 2024, the Book Explorers Reading Program will be made available to children enrolled in the PLAY aftercare program at Croissant Park, Osswald Park and Warfield Park.

### **Resource Impact**

This action will result in a positive impact to the City in the amount of \$3,000 dollars, which is contingent upon the approval of the Consolidated Budget Amendment CAM 23-0974.

### **Source:**

<b><i>Funds available as of November 9, 2023</i></b>					
<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>INDEX NAME (Program)</b>	<b>CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (Character)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10-129-9300-512-337- 700-23GBBFFL	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy	Intergovernmental Revenues/Local Government Unit Grant – Culture/Recreation	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
<b>APPROPRIATION TOTAL ►</b>					<b>\$3,000</b>

### **Use:**

<b>ACCOUNT NUMBER</b>	<b>INDEX NAME (Program)</b>	<b>CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME</b>	<b>AMENDED BUDGET (Character)</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
10-129-9300-512-30- 3299-23GBBFFL	Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy	Services/Materials – Other Services	\$0	\$0	\$3,000
<b>APPROPRIATION TOTAL ►</b>					<b>\$3,000</b>

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a 2024 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Places initiative.

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*.

This item supports the Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces Element
- Goal 1: Be a community where persons of all ages are able to partake in a fun and healthy lifestyle.

**Related CAM**

23-0974

**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 Mentor Program

Exhibit 3 – Second Amendment to Strategic Alliance Agreement Relating to Book Explorers Reading Mentor Program

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Prepared by: Carolyn Bean, Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation