



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

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager

DATE: December 3, 2024

TITLE: Motion Approving a Third 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)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a Third 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. (“Agreement”) to implement the Book Explorers Program through the Parks & Recreation Department’s PLAY aftercare program. The City Commission approved a First Amendment to the Agreement, extending the terms of the grant through June 3, 2023. The City Commission approved a Second Amendment to the Agreement extending the terms of the grant through June 7, 2024, and included funding for program implementation at three Parks & Recreation community centers.

The Book Explorers Reading Program is an online literacy program that pairs students in 1st through 3rd 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 3rd 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 Third Amendment to the Agreement extends the terms of the grant through June 7, 2025. The Book Explorers Program shall meet for a minimum of 12 sessions by June 7, 2025. In 2025, the Book Explorers Reading Program will be made available to children enrolled in the PLAY aftercare program at Bass Park, Carter Park, Croissant Park, Osswald Park, Riverland Park, and Warfield Park.

Resource Impact

This action will result in a positive impact to the City in the amount of \$6,000. which is contingent upon the approval of the Consolidated Budget Amendment CAM 24-0983.

Source:

Funds available as of November 1, 2024					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-0000-000-337-700-24GBBFFL	FY2025 Book Explores Grant	Intergovernmental Revenues/Local Government Unit Grant – Culture/Recreation	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
				APPROPRIATION TOTAL ►	\$6,000

Use:

ACCOUNT NUMBER	INDEX NAME (Program)	CHARACTER CODE/ SUB-OBJECT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-129-9300-579-30-3299-24GBBFFL	FY2025 Book Explores Grant	Services/Materials – Other Services	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
				APPROPRIATION TOTAL ►	\$6,000

Strategic Connections

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

This item supports the 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

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

24-0983

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

Exhibit 4 – Third Amendment to Strategic Alliance Agreement Relating to Book Explorers Reading Mentor Program

Prepared by: Susan Leon, Chief Education Officer, City Manager’s Office

Charter Officer: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager