

ARTS, PARKS, & CITY FACILITIES

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE 2028 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES

MOTION

The 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games present Los Angeles with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a lasting legacy for the City's children and young people. While the Games will bring the world's attention to Los Angeles through athletic competition, the City should also use this international moment to promote education, literacy, imagination, and opportunity for young Angelenos.

Los Angeles has successfully connected the Olympic spirit with youth education before. In 1984, the Los Angeles Reading Olympics was established to commemorate the City's hosting of the Olympic Games. The program encouraged children to read throughout the year through a reading competition and incorporated Olympic athletes into recognition ceremonies, where students who excelled in reading received medals. The program was still operating a decade later, demonstrating the potential for an Olympic-themed literacy initiative to become a meaningful and enduring community program.

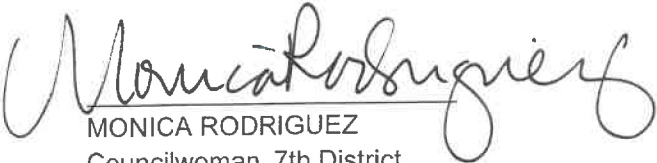
The 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee also developed a broad youth education initiative known as "Grow with the Olympics," which reached more than 100 junior high schools and provided students and educators with Olympic educational materials, athlete visits, certificates, and other opportunities to connect the Olympic experience with learning. These programs demonstrated that the Olympic Games can serve as more than a sporting event—they can be a catalyst for engaging young people in education and strengthening connections between schools and their communities.

The City is once again preparing for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Reviving the Reading Olympics could create a highly visible, inclusive and educational legacy program for LA28. A modern Reading Olympics could challenge students to set reading goals, recognize achievement through Olympic-inspired medals and certificates, connect students with local authors and libraries, and invite Olympians and Paralympians to serve as reading ambassadors and mentors.

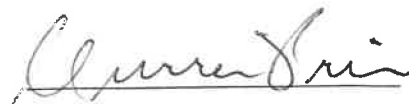
In 2024 Council District 7 piloted an updated version of the Reading Olympics across the District. The new Citywide revived program should incorporate the Los Angeles Public Library's extensive branch network and be designed to reach students throughout Los Angeles, including communities that may not otherwise have direct access to Olympic venues or Games-related programming.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council REQUEST the Los Angeles Public Library to report with recommendations for incorporating the Olympics into the 2028 Summer Reading Challenge.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:




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