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JOHN F. SZABO
CITY LIBRARIAN

April 21, 2022

The Honorable Paul Krekorian, Chair
City Council Budget and Finance Committee
c/o Andrew Suh, Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-23

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

As you know, the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) provides a level of social, cultural and educational services unmatched by any other public institution in the City. The Library successfully adapted to the challenges presented by the pandemic in order to continue providing these essential services to all Angelenos.

The Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 budget includes resources to strengthen our mission to serve the City's growing and diverse communities and advances programs and services that help create a safe, prosperous, and livable Los Angeles. By leveraging libraries as trusted resource centers, LAPL engages residents to provide citizenship and immigration assistance, help adults receive high school diplomas through the Career Online High School program, deliver an expanding digital collection, offer online courses to build the City's workforce, and provide extensive programs and services for children and teens. This budget allows LAPL to continue these initiatives and empower our diverse communities by helping residents of Los Angeles reach their goals.

Our priority, as always, is for libraries to be welcoming and safe spaces for everyone. This budget expands on the Library Experience Office created in FY 2021-22 by adding several community services representatives to serve as Library Ambassadors. These employees will greet and engage patrons, answer basic questions, encourage safe behavior in the Library, and de-escalate potential problems. This is a further step toward implementing a broader, more inclusive strategy for safety and security.

In addition, the proposed FY 2022-23 budget allocates funds to upgrade and improve our technology infrastructure, address facility needs, increase the Library's collections,

and implement the Menstrual Hygiene Program which provides no cost menstrual products at six pilot libraries.

The proposed budget contains more than \$6 million to address increased employee compensation. Also, as directed by Measure L, the proposed budget contains funds for the Library to reimburse the General Fund more than \$85 million for both direct costs (sidewalk repairs, utilities, custodial services, building maintenance, refuse collection, security services, etc.) and indirect costs (retirement, fringe benefits, and central services). For FY 2022-23, these direct and indirect costs comprise 37.61% of the Library Budget.

The Library requested a Librarian II position to assist with multi-language collections. Inclusive access is a cornerstone of the Library, and that extends to how we meet Angelenos where they are in terms of language. Our libraries actively collect and provide resources in numerous languages and this position would be instrumental in increasing the non-English services and materials that the Library currently offers. This position would assist with outreach and promotional efforts on social media and in developing web content for non-English speakers, and the Librarian II would create programming for non-English speaking community members and coordinate system-wide language materials purchasing and content translation. The Library sees this as a critical component of our commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion and would appreciate it if this position could be reconsidered.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact me or Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman at (213) 228-7515.

Sincerely,



John F. Szabo
City Librarian

cc: Honorable City Councilmembers
Board of Library Commissioners
Andre Herndon, Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor Garcetti
Mary Hodge, Deputy Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for City Services
Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor, Budget and Innovation
Raoul Mendoza, Budget Director, Mayor's Office
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