

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD REPORT

May 12, 2022

TO: Board of Library Commissioners

FROM: John F. Szabo, City Librarian

SUBJECT: **ACCEPTANCE OF CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES LIBRARY INNOVATION LAB GRANT FOR THE WOODLAND HILLS BRANCH LIBRARY'S "KHANAH, A PLACE OF BELONGING" PROGRAM SERIES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Library Commissioners adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accepts the California Humanities Library Innovation Lab (LIL) grant of \$5,000 for the Woodland Hills Branch Library's "Khanah, A Place of Belonging" program series; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Code 370.

**FINDINGS:**

1. The California Humanities LIL grant will be used to expand the research and programming efforts in the domains of information needs and community building opportunities within Afghan refugee communities who choose Los Angeles as their new home. The LIL program supports the design and delivery of responsive and relevant public humanities programming in the library by providing a nine-month practice-based professional development experience and cash grants of \$5,000 to participating library programmers. The creative and innovative programs that library staff develop will respond to the needs and circumstances of today's immigrants and immigrant communities and foster more inclusive communities within our state.
2. Through an interactive, patron-engaged process, the project lead will research, design, implement and assess a small scale, short-term public humanities project at the library between April 1 and December 31, 2022. Working in a collaborative learning environment that will incorporate face-to-face and virtual group meetings as well as individualized advising, participants will acquire new skills and knowledge in programming and project management, build confidence and develop capacity in working with immigrants and other target audiences and exercise creativity and imagination through experimenting with new programming approaches.

3. The goal is that we will go beyond including Afghan refugees' needs in our programming effort, and by utilizing an asset-based approach and engaging them in the development of the programs, help them find the library and its programs a safe and welcoming space of belonging. The long-term objective for the participating Afghan families is to establish a lasting relationship with the library and library staff, and continue benefiting from library resources and programs beyond what this grant opportunity offers, such as the New Americans Initiative, literacy services, financial literacy services, storytimes, and college/career readiness, just to name a few.
4. Khanah in Persian means home, our safest, most intimate space and the first place where we feel belonged. The Persian word for library is Kitab-Khanah, a home for books which belongs to any seeker of knowledge and wisdom.
- 5.

Prepared by: Toktam Gholami, Young Adult Librarian, Woodland Hills Branch Library

Reviewed by: Eva Mitnick, Director of Engagement and Learning

Attachment: **RESOLUTION**

May 12, 2022

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2022-XX (C-XX)

WHEREAS, On March 8, 2022, The California Humanities has announced the 2022 round of Library Innovation Lab (LIL) awards. The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) - Woodland Hills Branch Library has been awarded \$5,000 for its project entitled "Khanah, a Place of Belonging." This grant will be utilized to create multigenerational programming and resources to provide a welcoming, safe, and creative space for Afghan refugee families who are being resettled in the Los Angeles area; and

WHEREAS, These funds must be accepted by the Board of Library Commissioners to activate this award; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accept the California Humanities LIL grant of \$5,000 for the Woodland Hills Branch Library's "Khanah, a Place of Belonging" for Fiscal Year 2021/22 and 2022/23; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited into Trust Fund 419, Account 370.

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