



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 19 2007

Session:	Public Session
Subject:	Friends of the London Public Library Donation
Prepared By:	Margaret Mitchell
Presented By:	Anne Becker
Purpose of Report:	For Decision: Approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Recommendation

It is recommended that the donation of \$50,000 from the Friends of the London Public Library be allocated as outlined in Appendix 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

Each year, the Friends donate funds from the book sale and other revenue generating initiatives to support the programs and services of the London Public Library.

In May 2007, the Library received a generous donation of \$56,000 to assist in the funding of: the Reading Garden maintenance, the service improvements planned for the new Central Library, the development of the Teen Annex and a variety of literacy service initiatives. The Friends indicated in June that they will be providing further funds from the Book Sale and the Bookstore revenues and requested Administration to provide recommendations.

PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS

Administration has identified areas for fund allocation. These are outlined in Appendix 1 of this report.

Friends of the London Public Library Donation Proposed Allocations	
Item	Funding Request
<p>Masonville Branch Library Refresh Masonville Branch Library is undergoing a refresh, after 12 years of intensive use. General capital improvements are being made, such as painting, carpeting. Sources of funding include capital budget, Lasting Treasure, and local fundraising initiatives. Masonville is one our busiest branches, serving over 215,000 customers in 2007. The refresh includes service innovations: Discover Place, Teen Annex, better access to collections through innovative, self-checkout.</p> <p>The Friends' donation will contribute to upgraded display furniture and refurbishment of reading area furniture for adults and children.</p>	20,000
<p>Newcomers Project As part of LPL's 2005-2008 Strategic Plan, the library developed a customer-focussed Newcomer Service Model and Action Plan that will meet the needs of London's new immigrants and refugees. This model builds on the Library's past successes. In the coming year, we will be actively participating in two joint service initiatives provided in partnership by all levels of government and key community agencies. These initiatives support newcomers in their arrival to Canada/London, settlement and adaptation by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting with information and referral to specific community services (housing, medical/health, schools, etc.); • language, literacy and translation support; career and job search guidance; • learning opportunities; and culture, leisure and recreation. <p>The Friends' donation will fund the purchase of collections, staff training, and furniture/equipment.</p>	20,000
<p>R.E.A.D. The READ program, operating in Jalna, Sherwood and Crouch, provides one on one reading help through volunteers for children ages seven and up. The service is being operationalized through the establishment of a Coordinator, READ program position and the collections and support materials are being assessed and updated.</p> <p>The Friends' donation will be used to purchase new collections and kits for use by the students in the program</p>	5,000
<p>Improving the Independent User Experience The Library wants to enable its customers to be as independent as possible in managing their library experience. Research has shown that library customers do not like to ask for help and feel more comfortable if they can operate as independently as possible in the Library. To enable this, LPL will be introducing a new directional signage solution in this fall. The solution is designed to be intuitive and self-revealing which will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximize browse-ability • maintain visibility of Dewey Decimal System maintain a simple and consistent look and feel across the system • be flexible to accommodate the unique layouts of branches • use cost-effective materials <p>The Friends' donation will enable us to complete the project within the next 12 months.</p>	5,000
Total	\$50,000

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