

Priority: Vibrant Communities

Lead Agency: Library

Program Offer Type: Support

Program Contact: Becky Cobb

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

Volunteer Services provides opportunities for about 1,600 people annually who contribute their time and talents to Multnomah County Library. Volunteers are active in all locations including the Central Library, the 16 neighborhood libraries, Library Administration, and the Title Wave Bookstore as well as in the outreach programs.

The Title Wave Bookstore is a retail outlet that generates revenue for the Library through the sale of discarded books & other materials. Opened in 1988, the Title Wave provides an effective means of recycling the Library's collection back into the community.

Program Description

Volunteer Services oversees the recruitment, interviewing, and placement of over 1600 volunteers. The volunteers enhance the services that the Library can provide at neighborhood libraries and in the community. The scope of volunteer opportunities includes booktalking with Books 2 U, conducting storytimes in day care centers with Raising A Reader, delivering library materials to shelters and homebound persons through Library Outreach Services, teaching seniors basic computer skills through Cyber Seniors classes, and searching for reserved items at library locations. Volunteers are given skills and responsibilities that engage them in their libraries and neighborhoods. About 40% of library volunteers are students from 10-18 years old. Students are given an experience that provides life skills and engages them in their community.

The Title Wave Bookstore recycles & sells discarded library books & materials to the community. The store is open 36 hours/week and is fully staffed by 60 volunteers with the support of one paid staff person. Because the used books are sold at reasonable prices, many of the TW's regular customers are teachers & media specialists buying books for their classroom collections & school libraries. Many homeschoolers buy books for educational purposes as well.

Program Justification

Engaged and active volunteers are an indicator of a vibrant, thriving community and organization. By providing multiple opportunities for people to contribute their talents and participate in library programs, the volunteer program improves the overall health of the community. Last year 1,588 volunteers contributed 60,662 hours in support of 10 outreach programs, Central Library, 16 neighborhood libraries and administrative services.

The Title Wave Bookstore provides another opportunity for volunteer involvement and engagement in the community. It also gives the Library an outlet to recycle its discarded books, supporting the County's sustainability initiative. Typical annual revenues are about \$200,000. Since September of 2004, the TW has also sold older & more collectible books online through Alibris.com, generating an additional \$6,400 in revenue.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Hours contributed by volunteers	60,662	62,000	56,500	58,000
Outcome	Student vols who report using their vol svc for school community svc requirement	35.0%	25.0%	35.0%	38.0%

Performance Measure - Description

✔ **Measure Changed**

Outcome: Neighborhood libraries are a growing source for middle and high school students who need to fulfill 10-60 hours of volunteer service during the school year. Libraries are located in the neighborhoods where students live and are also open afternoons, evenings, and weekends when students are most readily available. Service learning is a curriculum in which students learn and develop skills through active participation in volunteer work in their community. About 600 students a year volunteer for the Library.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Measure No. 26-81 "Renew Five-Year Local Option Levy to Continue Library Services", November 2006 General Election – The levy language reads: "Continue programs for school age children, story hours for babies and toddlers, summer reading, literacy services for children in child care, programs for teens; Help teachers and students use library resources; provide homework helpers to assist children with school work; Maintain free access to information; Update books and materials; Continue books delivery to homebound seniors and nursing home residents; Open planned libraries in underserved neighborhoods of East County and North Portland: Keep libraries open; maintain current hours and services at Central and neighborhood libraries."

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2007	2007	2008	2008
Personnel	\$76,413	\$178,296	\$81,565	\$190,318
Contracts	\$3,150	\$7,350	\$3,386	\$7,901
Materials & Supplies	\$6,945	\$16,205	\$9,234	\$21,546
Internal Services	\$3,748	\$8,746	\$3,987	\$9,301
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$90,256	\$210,597	\$98,172	\$229,066
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$90,256	\$210,597	\$98,172	\$229,066
Program Total:	\$300,853		\$327,238	
Program FTE	1.00	2.00	1.00	2.00
Program Revenues				
Indirect for dep't Admin	\$1,292	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$1,292	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #80018, Volunteer Services/Title Wave Book Store

Outcome measure: changed the wording from "Student volunteer applicants who meet their school community svc requirement" in order to more accurately reflect the fact that students are using Library volunteer hours to help meet their community service requirement, but the Library hours may be in combination with other volunteer work. Numbers remain the same.

No significant programming changes.