



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES STAFF REPORT

June 15, 2026
Agenda Item No. 7

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Library Services Department
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PREPARED BY: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

TITLE: Acceptance of Donation from Friends of the Newport Beach Public Library

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board of Library Trustees approve the acceptance of the annual donation from the Friends of the Newport Beach Public Library.

DISCUSSION:

Founded in 1957 by a small group of volunteers, the Friends of the Newport Beach Public Library (Friends) takes pride in helping to maintain the excellence of the library system. Annually, staff makes a “wish list” request for funds to supplement the Library’s materials and programming budgets.

The Friends donated \$200,000 to fund the FY 2026-27 wish list which focuses on supporting the purchase of new materials and programming.

Balboa Branch Opening Day Collection - \$25,000

The Balboa Branch construction completion is expected for Fall 2027. When the new facility on the Peninsula opens, the Library will stock it with a new, popular collection in place. The collection will consist of the newest bestsellers and high circulating items. Funding will support the purchase of new books for all ages.

General Materials - \$75,000

Library patrons continue to expect the latest fiction, mysteries, biographies, and nonfiction. These funds will allow for purchasing multiple copies of high demand newly released titles, which help maintain our hold queues. In addition, Children’s classics, favorites, new releases, and books to support school curriculum will be purchased.

Programming - \$100,000

Staff present innovative programming at all locations for adults and children. Additionally, staff host library tours and visits and attend outreach events. Funding will continue to support storytimes, craft programs, special performances, and children’s author visits. Support for the Summer Reading Program reaches all audiences. With the opening of Witte Hall, the Library will expand its program offerings in the new facility. The requested funds will allow staff to support new ideas as well as traditional programs.

TOTAL - \$200,000

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).