

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Library *K*

BOARD AGENDA # *B-4

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE September 9, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Accept the Traveling Abraham Lincoln Exhibit from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History for the month of June 2010

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Authorize the County Librarian, or her designee, to accept the traveling Abraham Lincoln exhibit from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History for the month of June 2010.
- 2) Authorize the County Librarian, or her designee, to accept a \$1,000 stipend to offset travel expenses related to attendance at a required exhibit orientation.
- 3) Direct the Auditor-Controller to increase appropriations and estimated revenue in the amount of \$1,000 as detailed in the Budget Journal form.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The award of the Abraham Lincoln exhibit will provide \$1,000 to the Stanislaus County Library for costs associated with attendance at an orientation session, which is required as a condition of accepting the exhibit.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-638

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini and Chairman Mayfield

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

Christine Ferraro

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

In celebration of the bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, in partnership with the History Channel, and with a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, developed a traveling exhibit, "Abraham Lincoln: a man of his time, a man for all times." Only 40 libraries and National Park historic sites throughout the United States have been selected to host this exhibition between December 2008 and June 2010. The Stanislaus County Library has been selected to receive the exhibit for four weeks in June 2010.

Each year, four million people visit Lincoln's Memorial in Washington, D.C. More books have been written about Abraham Lincoln than any other American, yet public knowledge about our most famous president is dominated by a series of iconic images. Drawing on recent scholarships, this traveling exhibition encourages a deeper understanding of President Lincoln's life, policies, accomplishments, and legacy. The exhibition presents reproductions of Abraham Lincoln's words, supplemented by letters, photographs, and images from Civil War soldiers and their families. This exhibition explores fundamental questions raised by President Lincoln's life, such as: how a self-educated lawyer with little administrative experience guided a divided nation through the crises of secession and Civil War, why he championed emancipation, how his capacity for intellectual and moral growth shaped his presidency, and how his legacy changed the nation.

The exhibition illustrates that two centuries after his birth; President Lincoln still speaks to Americans and the world. Raised on the Kentucky and Indiana frontiers, and formed by his experiences as a lawyer in Illinois, Abraham Lincoln wrestled with issues of race and rights, with the limits of political leadership, and with civil liberties during wartime. His administration advanced the idea of the United States as a single, unified nation, and he set an agenda for inclusive democracy that continues to have resonance today.

The Abraham Lincoln exhibit provides an excellent opportunity to engage community members in a countywide public education effort about an important part of American history. A local Lincoln Bicentennial Commission is currently being formed under the auspices of the City of Modesto to organize community events and education efforts in celebration of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. The Stanislaus County Library, in partnership with the Commission, will provide public programs related to the exhibit, such as lectures and book discussions. Abraham Lincoln themes will be incorporated into the Library's storytelling programs and related book displays will be featured during the time that the exhibit is in the County. In addition, the Library will seek partnerships with schools, colleges and the media, to publicize and encourage visits to this educational exhibit.

POLICY ISSUES:

The Board should determine if approval of this agenda item supports its priorities of striving for Effective Partnerships and the Efficient Delivery of Public Services by offering community education through the Abraham Lincoln exhibit and related programming.

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STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

