

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

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| Austin City Council | Item ID | 27222 | Agenda Number | 40. |
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| Meeting Date: | 9/26/2013 | Department: | Library |
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Subject

Approve an ordinance accepting \$737 in grant funds from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission; and amending the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Library Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20120910-001) to appropriate \$737 for staff to attend the Edge Focus Group Meeting.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission made available by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant period is September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

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| Purchasing Language: | |
| Prior Council Action: | |
| For More Information: | Susan Soy, Library Development Administrator, 974-7388; Victoria Rieger, Financial Manager, 974-7446 |
| Boards and Commission Action: | |
| MBE / WBE: | |
| Related Items: | |

Additional Backup Information

The Edge Initiative is a Public Library Association community assessment and benchmarking national initiative that will launch in January, 2014. Recognizing that public libraries are sometimes the only means by which millions of people access computers, the Internet, and other technologies, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is funding the work of the Edge Coalition. The Coalition, comprised of 13 organizations including the Public Library Association and program leader of the Urban Libraries Council, is dedicated to developing benchmarks and tools for public libraries to strategically plan, advocate, and ultimately meet the communities' needs for public access to technology. The benchmarks point to practices that will help libraries evaluate and continually improve public technology services in their communities.

The grant funding enables the Austin Public Library to send one or more individuals to attend the Edge Focus Group meeting on September 27, 2013 at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in Austin in addition to engaging library staff in future Edge-related staff training.

All department grant application requests are reviewed by the Budget Office prior to submission to ensure that the grant minimizes the financial impact to the City. The General Fund will not be required to contribute to this grant.