

6.3 READING AND WALKING: INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY BOOKMARKS EXCHANGE 2019

Submitting Councillor: MT Pang Tsoi

MOTION

That Council endorses Monash Public Library Service's participation in the "Reading and Walking: International Library Bookmarks Arts Exchange 2019" in association with Guangzhou Library (China), Los Angeles County Public Library (USA), Lyon Library (France), National Foreign Language Library of Russia and the Yekaterinburg Mayor Library of Russia.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

In late May 2019, Monash Public Library Service was contacted by the Victorian Multicultural Education Services (VMES) to participate in an International Youth Bookmark Art Exchange. The purpose of this initiative is to promote multicultural communication amongst children and teenagers from China, USA, France, Russia and Australia.

For 2019, the project's theme is *Reading and Walking*. The exchange requires participants to submit an illustrated bookmark based on the theme using ink, pen or pencil.

Each participating library will promote and judge the entries submitted, which will be then forwarded to Guangzhou Library in China who will coordinate an exchange of the winning entries between the participating libraries. Each library will hold an awards ceremony where certificates, which have been issued jointly by all participating libraries, will be presented. An exhibition of the award winners will be displayed in all libraries in succession.

The target audience for this project will be children and teenagers between the ages of 5 and 18. The entries will be assigned to the following categories:

- Kindergarten – Grade 2
- Grade 3 – Grade 6
- Junior high school
- Senior high school

The competition will have clearly defined guidelines and a judging panel consisting of nominated Councillors, Council officers and a representative from the Monash Young Persons Reference Group.

The competition will be run during the month of August and accompanied by relevant publicity.

CONCLUSION

This initiative provides young people in the City of Monash the opportunity to engage in an international competition that promotes creativity, cultural awareness and celebrates diversity. The theme, “Reading and Walking” will allow them to reflect and respond on the value of reading and exercise.

This is the first time that Monash Public Library Service has been invited to participate in an international competition of this nature. It will showcase the artistic skills of young people in the City of Monash on an international scale.