



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: February 10, 2026

DATE: January 14, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jamie Hemingway, Development Officer, Library
775-327-8360, JHemingway@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Debi Stears, Collection Development Manager, Library
775-327-8349, DDStears@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve the Yiddish Book Center's 2026 "Between Two Worlds" Public Libraries Program scholarship award in the amount of [\$551.09; No County match required] for the travel and meals of one Washoe County Library employee to attend a three-day workshop in Amherst, Massachusetts, for a retroactive term of November 2, 2025, through November 4, 2025, awarded to Washoe County Library by the Yiddish Book Center through the Lilly Endowment, Inc.; if approved, to direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Washoe County Library is seeking retroactive approval of the Yiddish Book Center's 2026 "Between Two Worlds" Public Libraries Program scholarship award in the amount of [\$551.09; No County match required] for the travel and meals of one Washoe County Library employee to attend a three-day workshop in Amherst, Massachusetts. The workshop took place from November 2 to November 4, 2025.

The Washoe Board of County Commissioners must accept grant awards and must approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable populations

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

The Yiddish Book Center's 2026 "Between Two Worlds" Public Libraries Program provides grants, resources, and training to public libraries across the country to host programming that explores Yiddish literature and Jewish life, religion, and culture.

A Washoe County Library staffer who oversees the Shia Szut Holocaust Collection at the Northwest Reno Library applied and was invited to attend a three-day workshop held from Sunday, November 2 to Tuesday, November 4, 2025, at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts. (All travel and meal expenses were covered by the Yiddish Book Center. Lodging fees were waived.)

Retroactive approval of the scholarship funds is sought due to the December availability of final expenditures affecting the project budget.

If approved and accepted, these grant funds will reimburse Washoe County Library for travel and meal expenses for one library staffer in the amount of \$551.09.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: The Yiddish Book Center's 2026 "Between Two Worlds" Public Libraries Program

Scope of the Project: The Yiddish Book Center's Public Libraries Program will equip librarians with the tools to introduce Yiddish literature to their local communities. Each participant must attend a three-day workshop onsite at the Yiddish Book Center campus in Amherst, Massachusetts, and organize a reading group to discuss three books of Yiddish literature in translation by the project deadline of December 31, 2026.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: The library staffer who oversees the Shia Szut Holocaust Collection at the Northwest Reno Library attended the three-day workshop to gain experience that will aid in the promotion and oversight of the collection. She will organize reading groups and library programs that will help to introduce Yiddish literature to the local community and foster interfaith and intercultural dialogue. The project will promote education, encourage interest in the collection, and increase the circulation of materials.

On-Going Program Support: N/A

Award Amount: \$551.09

Grant Period: November 2–4, 2025

Funding Source: The Lilly Endowment, Inc.

Pass Through Entity: The Yiddish Book Center

Assistance Listing #/CFDA: N/A

Grant ID Number: N/A

Match Amount and Type: No match required.

Sub-Awards and Contracts: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 Washoe County Library adopted budget will be increased by \$551.09 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

| Cost Object & Description | G/L Account & Description | Amount |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| IO-20566 Between Two Worlds Grant | 484195 – Non-Govt'l Grants | \$551.09 |
| IO-20566 Between Two Worlds Grant | 711210 – Travel | \$487.56 |
| IO-20566 Between Two Worlds Grant | 711212 – Meals & Lodging | \$63.53 |

Total project funds for workshop attendance amounted to \$551.09. The Yiddish Book Center will reimburse Washoe County Library for \$551.09 in expenses to include \$487.56 for airfare and ground transportation, and \$63.53 for meals and incidentals. All lodging expenses were waived.

No ongoing and future expenditures are associated with this grant.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Yiddish Book Center’s 2026 “Between Two Worlds” Public Libraries Program scholarship award in the amount of [\$551.09; No County match required] for the travel and meals of one Washoe County Library employee to attend a three-day workshop in Amherst, Massachusetts, for a retroactive term of November 2, 2025, through November 4, 2025, awarded to Washoe County Library by the Yiddish Book Center through the Lilly Endowment, Inc.; if approved, to direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts.)

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“Move to approve the Yiddish Book Center’s 2026 “Between Two Worlds” Public Libraries Program scholarship award in the amount of [\$551.09; No County match required] for the travel and meals of one Washoe County Library employee to attend a three-day workshop in Amherst, Massachusetts, for a retroactive term of November 2, 2025, through November 4, 2025, awarded to Washoe County Library by the Yiddish Book Center through the Lilly Endowment, Inc.; if approved, to direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments.”*