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**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED
With Confidential
Attachment**

Sponsorship for TPL AI Upskilling Initiative

Date: December 2, 2024

To: Toronto Public Library Board

From: City Librarian

Reason for Confidential Information: This report involves the security of the property of the Board – Public Libraries Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter P. 44, s. 16.1 (4)(a)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request Toronto Public Library Board approval for the sponsorship of Toronto Public Library's (TPL) new Artificial Intelligence (AI) Upskilling initiative. With Board approval of sponsorship, the Toronto Public Library Foundation (TPLF) and TPL will proceed with final negotiations, including agreements, benefits and recognition package, and timelines.

The proposed sponsorship of TPL's AI Upskilling initiative meets the criteria for approval set out in the Library's Sponsorship Policy. This policy requires Library Board approval for sponsorships valued at over $500,000 per year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1.   adopts the confidential recommendations in Attachment 1; and

2.   authorizes the release of the name and general terms of the sponsorship arrangement once negotiations are complete and the public announcement planned for Q1 2025 has been made.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed sponsorship agreement will provide the necessary funding to deliver the TPL AI Upskilling initiative. TPLF's fundraising success is critical to TPL's ability to achieve strategic plan goals, especially in areas of innovation.

The Director, Finance and Treasurer has reviewed this financial impact statement and agrees with it.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategies outlined in this report are consistent with TPL Strategic Plan priorities to *Broaden Toronto's Digital Access and Inclusion* by developing new initiatives to support access to emerging technologies, software and expertise; and *Building Pathways for Workforce Development* by offering access to high-quality learning opportunities and building capacity to deliver TPL's eLearning services.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

TPL's AI Upskilling initiative is specifically designed to target equity-deserving groups and job-seeking candidates from marginalized communities in Toronto. TPL will provide course scholarships for both self-paced learning and comprehensive learning circle models to help break down barriers and increase course completion rates for learners. This initiative will help upskill and advance career goals for thousands of Torontonians.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

In August 2024, TPLF and TPL began discussions with the proposed sponsor about a fundraising proposal for a TPL AI Upskilling initiative.

TPL developed a fundraising proposal for the proposed sponsor for a city-wide AI Upskilling initiative with a focus on programs and services to help address the digital divide resulting from AI.

The proposed sponsor, TPLF and TPL have investigated the feasibility, scope and expected cost of this initiative and have agreed to a tentative program model, budget and sponsorship support level. With Board approval for the sponsorship, TPLF and TPL will finalize terms with the proposed sponsor to proceed with TPL AI Upskilling initiative.

COMMENTS

Using the sponsor funding, the TPL AI Upskilling initiative will make AI tools and resources available in TPL branches; equip 3,700 Torontonians from equity-deserving groups with formal AI training courses and certifications; and expand access to TPL's AI and digital inclusion programs and services.

The proposed sponsorship opportunity meets the criteria for sponsorship as outlined in the Sponsorship Policy. The details of the sponsorship opportunity are provided in Confidential Attachment 1 of this report for consideration by the Library Board.

This material is confidential as it involves the security of the property of the Board.

CONTACT

Pam Ryan; Director, Service Development & Innovation; Tel: 416-393-7133; Email: pryan@tpl.ca

SIGNATURE

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Vickery Bowles
City Librarian

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1:   Confidential Information

The confidential information provided to the TPL Board regarding the sponsorship of TPL's AI Upskilling Initiative is now public in its entirety.

Google Sponsorship of TPL AI Upskilling Initiative

Date: December 2, 2024

To: Toronto Public Library Board

From: City Librarian

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Librarian recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board:

1.   approves Google's sponsorship of the TPL AI Upskilling initiative at the giving level of $2.0 million (USD) plus provision of in-kind certification course fees with an approximate value of $0.240 million (USD) under the terms and conditions as described in this report; and

2.   authorizes the City Librarian to complete the contract negotiations and make minor adjustments, as needed.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

In August 2024, the Toronto Public Library Foundation (TPLF) and Toronto Public Library (TPL) began discussions with Google Canada about a fundraising proposal for an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Upskilling initiative with a value of up to $2.0 million (USD).

TPL developed a fundraising proposal for Google for a city-wide AI upskilling initiative with a focus on programs and services to help address the digital divide resulting from AI. The AI Upskilling initiative is expected to: make a variety of multi-platform AI tools and resources available in TPL branches;

equip 3,700 Torontonians from equity-deserving groups with formal AI training courses and certifications; and expand access to TPL's AI and digital inclusion programs and services.

The TPL AI Upskilling initiative's suite of programs and services will include:

1. Activating upskilling opportunities by increasing access to a variety of AI tools:
    *   Selecting and installing a range of leading, multi-platform generative AI software and tool options at TPL's 19 Learning Centres, 12 Digital Innovation Hubs, and six (6) Pop-Up Learning Labs;
    *   Leveraging and integrating AI resources into TPL programming; and
    *   Lending new AI tools and learning kits through TPL's existing Tech Kit lending program.

2. Providing Google AI Essentials Certificate courses with independent and facilitated learning opportunities. Google AI Essentials is a 10-hour industry-standard course hosted by Coursera. It features content about different AI tools and platforms; approaches on how to use AI tools to generate ideas and content; using AI tools to help speed up daily work and write effective prompts; and using AI responsibly by identifying AI's potential biases and avoiding harm.

    TPL will offer:
    *   TPL's Learning Circle Model with comprehensive supports for learning circle cohorts (2160 learners); and
    *   Scholarships and Programming for a minimum of 1500 learners.

3. Convening experts to upskill community members and develop cross-sector solutions:

    *   Four Innovators in Residence: Providing one-on-one consultations and workshops on themes such as AI and digital creativity, AI and filmmaking, and AI and privacy (16 weeks each, 1,200 learners);
    *   Annual Digital Expo: Scaling TPL's existing program in both 2025 and 2026 to bring attendees together to learn about generative AI and how it may impact the future of work. (300+ learners each); and

The confidential information provided to the TPL Board regarding the sponsorship of TPL's AI Upskilling Initiative is now public in its entirety.

- Two AI Summits: Summits will bring together leaders from academia, technology, government and non-profits to discuss & demonstrate how AI is transforming Toronto's economic landscape (300+ attendees each).

With successful Board approval for sponsorship, TPLF and TPL will finalize terms with Google to proceed with the proposed TPL AI Upskilling initiative. Google's total sponsorship contribution will be approximately $2.0 million (USD) plus provision of in-kind certification course fees with an approximate value of $0.240 million (USD) over two years.

The Library's Sponsorship Policy requires Library Board approval for sponsorships valued at over $500,000 per year. The Sponsorship Policy provides for mutually beneficial sponsorships based on: the merits of the sponsorship; whether it meets Library priorities; whether it is considered to be in the best interest of the public; appropriateness for children; appropriateness of the sponsor; appropriateness of the benefits to the sponsor; and consideration as to whether it may compromise Library principles and policies.

Google's sponsorship of the TPL AI Upskilling initiative meets the conditions and criteria as outlined in the policy.

Appropriateness of the Sponsor
The sponsorship is being recommended based on its benefits for the Library, its monetary value, the reputation of Google for corporate and social responsibility and TPL's experience from the previous successful naming and sponsorship with Google for the Google IT Support Professional Certificate Program and previous sponsorship of TPL's Wi-Fi Hotspot Lending Program.

CONTACT

Pam Ryan; Director, Service Development & Innovation; Tel: 416-393-7133; Email: pryan@tpl.ca

The confidential information provided to the TPL Board regarding the sponsorship of TPL's AI Upskilling Initiative is now public in its entirety.

SIGNATURE

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Vickery Bowles
City Librarian

ATTACHMENTS (CONFIDENTIAL)

Appendix 1:   Confidential Memo from TPL Foundation CEO
                Google Social Impact Funding to Support TPL's AI Upskilling Initiative

The confidential information provided to the TPL Board regarding the sponsorship of TPL's AI Upskilling Initiative is now public in its entirety.

Confidential Appendix 1

CONFIDENTIAL MEMO:
GOOGLE.ORG SOCIAL IMPACT FUNDING TO SUPPORT TPL'S AI UPSKILLING INITIATIVE

TO: Vickery Bowles, City Librarian
FROM: Will Scott, CEO, Toronto Public Library Foundation
DATE: November 15, 2024

SUMMARY

The Toronto Public Library Foundation (TPLF) has secured a proposed $2.24M USD investment from Google.org. The funds and in-kind support will enable Toronto Public Library (TPL) to launch its city-wide, multi-platform TPL AI Upskilling initiative to equip equity-deserving groups with AI skills to unlock jobs, gain access to AI tools and access both facilitated and self-paced learning opportunities.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

To address the digital divide resulting from AI, TPL's AI Upskilling initiative was designed to help build a future where job growth and economic opportunities are equitable, inclusive, and unbiased.

IMPACT

These sponsorship funds will allow TPL to equip over 14,000 community members from equity-deserving groups, including low-income, BIPOC, and newcomers, with AI skills and make AI tools and resources available to over 2,000,000 Torontonians to unlock employment opportunities.

RECOGNITION & STEWARDSHIP

There are no recognition requirements specifically related to the proposal, but best-practice donor stewardship recommendations are as follows:
- *Generously supported by Google.org* mentioned on relevant web pages, program collateral and promotions relation to the AI sponsored program.
- TPL to collaborate with Google.org to publicly announce the sponsorship, including news release and post on TPL.ca/TPLFoundation.ca;
- TPL to issue blog post and social media post that speaks to the library's work in AI, and include a thank you to Google.org for supporting the work;

There are two stewardship reports required in the agreement. TPL will be required to track qualitative and quantitative impacts.

The confidential information provided to the TPL Board regarding the sponsorship of TPL's AI Upskilling Initiative is now public in its entirety.

RECOMMENDATION

The TPL Foundation recommends that the Toronto Public Library Board approve the sponsorship and enable the City Librarian to negotiate and sign a contract with Google.org to advance and support TPL's AI Upskilling initiative.