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Thursday, May 25, 2023

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the Anchorage Public Library, we strongly support Vlada's Seeds of Life's proposal for a grant to help purchase a mechanical packing machine to help them reach more communities through their outreach efforts.

The Anchorage Public Library has partnered with Vlada's Seeds of Life for two years to provide planting programs to the general public in Anchorage, Alaska. Last summer, the youth services department used the seeds for a planting program during our annual Summer Discovery elementary school-aged programming across our five branch locations and will be doing so again this summer.

On May 16, 2023, the Anchorage Public Library hosted a special storytime called Bite-Sized Science, which lets preschool aged children explore different STEM concepts through books and hands-on activities. The May Bite-Sized Science program focused on seeds and planting. After listening to non-fiction books about seeds and how they sprout, children decorated plant pots and planted their own vegetable seeds, which were generously provided by Vlada's Seeds of Life. We also set out an assortment of seed packets for families to take home to plant. This month's program was attended by over 50 people.

Families were so excited to have the opportunity to plant with their children and to talk with them about the process of growing flowers and vegetables at home. The children were able to learn about the many different varieties of seeds available, some they had only encountered for the first time at this library program. Several of the children said that they were looking forward to being able to eat the vegetables they were going to grow from seeds.

The Anchorage Public Library is a place of connection. Our three community priorities are: education & skills for life; being a bridge to information and resources; and building community. Partnering with programs like Vlada's Seeds of Life, which aims to strengthen the family bond, to teach children valuable life lessons and create a passion for sharing these lessons with the larger community, dovetails nicely with our priorities. We hope to continue partnering with them in the future and to deliver more resources to our patrons and community members.

I greatly hope you will fund this project and help Vlada's Seeds of Life and its partners advance education, community, and connections in Anchorage and beyond. Please feel free to reach out to me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Samantha Blanquart

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MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE