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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GRAPEVINE PUBLIC LIBRARY BECOMES FIRST SENSORY INCLUSIVE CERTIFIED LIBRARY IN THE STATE OF TEXAS

One in six individuals have a sensory need in the United States.

Grapevine, Texas (August 16, 2019) — The Grapevine Public Library is proud to announce its official certification through KultureCity to become the first sensory inclusive library in the State of Texas! Proudly partnering with KultureCity on its sensory awareness initiative, the Grapevine Public Library, 1201 Municipal Way implemented this program to improve their ability to assist and accommodate guests with sensory needs.

The Grapevine Public Library has become KultureCity® Sensory Inclusive™ certified via staff training, the provision of sensory bags, and other simple signage and modifications to help create a more accepting and inclusive environment for everyone. Today, one in six individuals have a sensory need in the United States and the KultureCity® Sensory Inclusive™ program allows individuals with autism and other sensory needs the ability to see and experience all the things the world has to offer. Sensory needs are a common medical condition in which the brain has trouble receiving and responding to information and common sounds, lights, crowds, and even certain scents may be overwhelming. One of the major barriers for these individuals is sensitivity to overstimulation and noise, which is an enormous part of their environment.

“Our objective is to provide a positive experience for all our guests, including those with sensory needs,” said Ruth Chiego, Grapevine Public Library Director. “We strive to raise awareness of the needs and challenges faced by individuals with sensory processing disorders by supplying our library team with up-to-date training and by offering resources to our guests.”

The library staff took part in training created by leading medical professionals on how to recognize library visitors with sensory needs. Individuals with Autism, ADHD, Down’s Syndrome, PTSD, Cerebral Palsy, anxiety often experience sensory issues. Sensory bags filled with items such as noise-canceling headphones, fidget toys, and weighted lap pads are now available at the checkout desk at the Grapevine Public Library. Learn more about this unique program by downloading the KultureCity app. Visit Library.GrapevineTexas.gov for additional information about KultureCity and the Library’s social story that aids in preparing guests for their visit.

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