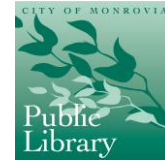




**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: July 25, 2019

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Elder,  
Adult and Literacy Services Supervisor  
Linda Vera,  
Youth Services Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

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**ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

On June 3, Literacy Center staff gave a library tour to local adult school students from the Monrovia Adult School. Twenty students attended the tour and were issued library cards. Supporting lifelong learning and expanding the partnership with the Monrovia Unified School District are both goals of the Library's Strategic Plan.

*Star Wars Trivia Night* was held at the Copper Still Grill in Monrovia on June 4. Fifty-two participants played on teams and enjoyed an exciting evening of trivia. Response to the trivia nights has been enthusiastic and many participants wear themed clothing. The program is part of broadening patron experiences and partnering with local businesses, goals of the Library's Strategic Plan.

On Saturday, June 8, staff hosted the movie, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, as part of *Silver Screen*, the Cinematic Heritage Series for adults. Attendees enjoyed the musical, which is a biographical film about Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of the British rock band Queen. This program is a part of the library's strategic goal of broadening patron experiences and creating programs in response to patron feedback.

Local mindfulness organization, *Peace Point Meditation*, presented an introduction to meditation for life balance and self-care on June 13. Twenty-three attendees learned techniques to relieve stress and anxiety to feel more at ease in their daily lives. The program is part of the library's strategic goal of broadening patron experiences.

On June 18 and 28, staff hosted a nature based activity at local senior residences, Heritage Park and Regency Court. Staff demonstrated herbal mini gardening to twenty-four attendees. Supporting lifelong learning and Active Mind, Active Life programming for seniors are goals of the Library's Strategic Plan.

On June 27, staff gave a library tour to seventeen memory care residents of Kensington Gardens. In addition to the tour, staff read aloud short stories to help participants stimulate memories and creativity. This not only provided Active Mind, Active Life programming for seniors, a goal of the Library's Strategic Plan, but it also aligns with the City's designation as Dementia Friendly Monrovia, part of the larger Dementia Friendly America movement to provide support to those with memory care issues and their caregivers.

## YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

On Saturday, June 8 library staff welcomed the community to the Summer Reading Kickoff. Activities were available for all ages during the four hour kickoff, including arts and crafts, making cat beds that were then donated to the Pasadena Humane Society, *Minute to Win It*, fort building, campfire stories, and a bubble party. The Monrovia Reads Van was a welcome addition to the party atmosphere. At the event, over 200 people signed up for the Summer Reading Program. A total of 1,200 people attended the event.

On Tuesday, June 11, the library had an *Apollo 11 Party*, hosted by NASA Solar System Ambassador Carson Brucker, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon landing. There was a presentation about the mission, then a question and answer session. One six-year old, aided by his parents, asked a question about interdimensional travel and wormholes. After this the Sidewalk Astronomers set up telescopes outside to view the Moon and Jupiter. Inside, children made buttons using the emblems of historic space missions, ate Moon Pies, and became astronauts with a special craft. This program supported STEM learning in alignment with our strategic plan. Over 60 attendees took part in the event.

On Friday, June 14, the library held the *Unmaker Lab*. Children were given a safety lesson, then proceeded to take apart various electronic appliances and devices. There was a profusion of positive feedback about the program and it was wonderful to see caregivers actively learning about electronics with their children. The program fed the Scientific and Engineering curiosity of children and nurtured a sense of collaboration between children and their adults that is essential to what we do. More than 40 adults and children attended the program.

On Thursday, June 20, *Water Balloon Madness*, a program planned by the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) for teens took place. Teens met in front of the library to play water balloon games. They helped fill water balloons and also invited children in Library Park to participate in the games. This was a fun activity for children and teens in the summer, and they enjoyed running around and playing in the park. This was an active program that gave teens an opportunity to play and enjoy outdoor time. Play is not only important for younger children, but people of all ages. It reduces stress, helps teens make friends, and improves health.

On Saturday, June 22, the Library partnered with local science teachers for an *Earthquake Challenge*. Using Oreo cookies, children broke the top cookie layer and moved it around as an example of moving tectonic plates. Participants also built a tower with marshmallows, cardboard, clay, and spaghetti. Finished structures were placed on an Earthquake Table to see if they fell over or remained erect. The machine simulated stresses that occur during earthquakes. This was a fun way to learn about science, problem solving, and critical thinking through play. This program had 72 attendees.

On Saturday, June 29, *Book Crafts with Erica* a program offered for teens, taught participants how to recycle old books into notebooks and journals. The program attracted 18 participants who used covers from discarded books to create their own notebooks. After binding their books, they learned various techniques for adding embellishments that used artwork and text from book pages. This program supported creative thinking skills by encouraging participants to think outside the box and find ways to re-purpose materials to create new objects.

On Wednesdays in June, the library held its first *Sims* movie making workshop for teens and adults. Ten participants ages 12 and up used library laptops and the *Sims* video game to learn basics of moviemaking and how to create short films. At the first workshop, participants wrote an original script and recorded voice-overs. The second week focused on filming within the *Sims* platform. Participants learned

about effective camera angles and working with the script to capture footage. At the last session, they learned editing and matching the audio recording to the script. Attendees learned various skills, including effective storytelling, framing shots, and using the digital medium to create films. The program encouraged creativity and problem-solving skills in order to adapt to the limitations and opportunities of this storytelling medium. This program aligned with the Strategic Plan goals of enhanced 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills programming and providing the community access to new technologies.

On three consecutive Saturdays, in June, a family wellness program was held at the library. The program consisted of yoga, meditation and breathing exercises for families led by a certified yoga instructor. The families enjoyed the program and stayed to interact with the other attendees well after each session ended. This program was a great way to contribute to a sense of community and introduce practices that contribute to mindfulness and focus, which are crucial to a child's emotional and intellectual development. More than 80 participants took part in the program.