



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: January 23, 2020

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

On Saturday, October 5, Adult Services staff presented *Gather & Make: Zine Workshop*. Participants created their own magazine with images, stories, and collage. *Gather & Make* is a series of creative programs with the goal of fostering community while providing a creative experience at the Library. The program is a part of broadening patron experiences, a goal of the library's strategic plan.

Literacy Center staff held a series of family literacy workshops from 9/13-11/8. *Abriendo Puertas / Opening Door Family Literacy Program* provide parents and caregivers with family literacy tools and tips. Four participants attended the series and a graduation ceremony was held on 11/8 celebrating their success. Supporting lifelong learning is a goal of the library's strategic plan.

On October 10 & 24 and November 14, Adult Service staff held *Stop, Drop, & Make*, a two hour drop-in creative program for adults from 2-4 the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Activities include coloring, stamping, card-making, and other quick and easy fun activities. Attendees can create something new each week or work on their own project.

Pop Culture Trivia Night was held on at the Copper Still Grill in Monrovia on Tuesday, October 15. Thirty-three participants played on teams and enjoyed an exciting evening of trivia. Trivia night participation is enthusiastic and many participants wear themed clothing for the events.

On October 16, Adult Services staff and Wingwalker Brewing partnered to present *Horror Trivia Night*. Participants enjoyed a spooky evening of trivia for classic and new movies. The program is a part of broadening patron experiences, a goal of the library's strategic plan.

NaNoWriMo kicked off on October 28 and was held each Tuesday evening during the month of November. *NaNoWriMo* is an annual Internet-based creative writing project where participants are encouraged to accept the challenge to write a short novel in one month during National Novel Writing Month. The adult services staff hosted weekly *Come Write Ins* for attendees to connect with other aspiring authors, get tips and tools from *NaNoWriMo* experts, and provide space to work on a novel. Twenty five adults and teens participated in the project. The program is a part of broadening patron experiences, a goal of the library's strategic plan.

On Saturday, November 2, Adult Services staff presented *Gather & Make: Embroider Me*. Participants learned basic embroidery stitches and created a hanging embroidered art piece. *Gather & Make* is a

series of creative programs with the goal of fostering community while providing a creative experience at the Library. The program is a part of broadening patron experiences, a goal of the library's strategic plan.

On November 11, Veterans Resource Center staff and volunteers attended the Veterans Day ceremony in Library Park and provided information about the Veterans Resource Center. A highlight of the ceremony was the new plaque recently installed at the Monrovia Library Park to recognize all the men and women who served in the Vietnam War.

Sports Trivia Night was held on at the Copper Still Grill in Monrovia on Tuesday, November 19. Participants played on teams and enjoyed an exciting evening of trivia. Trivia night participation is enthusiastic and many participants wear themed clothing for the events.

On November 20, Adult Services staff met with over 40 members of *Gadabouts*, a local older adult group. Staff provided the group with a roving collection of large print books and information about activities held at the library. Supporting lifelong learning is a goal of the library's strategic plan.

Over 100 people enjoyed the performances of the annual *Holiday Sounds* event held in the Library Lobby on December 7. Music was provided by Pacific Tones Flute Choir Ensemble led by Cheryl Lopez. Enhancing experiences is a goal of the library's strategic plan.

On December 14, Adult Services staff and volunteers hosted a Cantina for adults 21+ at the library wide *Star Wars* event held at the library. The Cantina featured beer, board games, giant bean bag toss, and snacks and over 60 adults enjoyed the Cantina experience.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

On October 2, and November 16 our last two SciLab drop-in programs for the year were held. The total of 33 attendees and 5 teen volunteers participated in each of the programs. Participants used microscopes and experimented with circuits, current and electricity using Little Bits and Squishy Circuits, and practicing coding on the iPads. Staff is excited to develop this program to fit the needs of the younger members of the community, keeping *STEM* at the forefront of our programming in accordance with our strategic plan.

Book Swap Saturday continued on October 5, and November 2. During the program, teens were invited to swap their unwanted books for new books. Teen Advisory Board (TAB) supervised the program, and helped other teens and their younger siblings with crafts. In October, teens decorated their own flowerpots, and in November they made pom-poms. This is a passive program that supports teens through activities geared towards their age, and encourages literacy by providing teens with new books they can keep. The program attracted 22 teens in October and 27 teens in November.

On October 9, and November 13, the library held programs for elementary aged children using *LEGO Boost Robotics* kits. Each class was at capacity and had 6 teens to help the kids attending the program. Those in attendance were able to develop engineering, critical thinking, coding and other essential STEM-related skills. In the program, different groups of kids built a guitar, two different types of cats and a dump truck/forklift hybrid. The feedback from those attending the programs was positive and we will develop ways to incorporate the *LEGO Boost* kits into upcoming programs.

On October 25, a *Zombie Scavenger Hunt*, a teen program planned and organized by TAB members was held in the library. In October, the planning committee met once a week to plan the event. The premise of the game was to survive a zombie apocalypse by gathering necessary supplies and evading

roaming zombies. The twelve teens participated in the game and had a great time being active and solving puzzles. This kind of program encourages teamwork and critical thinking, as well as provide teens with screen-free entertainment that promotes social interaction and physical activity.

On Tuesday, November 26, patron came together and listened to stories about thankfulness. The Library partnered with Recreation staff and provided an engaging opportunity to say thank you and welcome the Christmas season. Staff read books, sang songs, and told interactive tales that focused on gratefulness to prepare us for the upcoming holiday. There were approximately 125 in attendance. Participation in this city event reinforced our partnership with other city departments and provided an opportunity to practice lifelong learning and literacy skills.

TAB members planned and prepared crafts for children to make during the City of Monrovia *Thankful and Grateful Holiday Gathering*. This program was planned and executed entirely by members of TAB. During the event, TAB members helped children make turkey headbands and write things they were grateful for on their thankful turkeys. The program gave teens the opportunity to take responsibility for planning a program to offer to children under staff guidance. Throughout the planning process teens learned to exercise time management and teamwork skills, as well as practicing customer service skills and interacting with younger children during the event.

The library worked with high school students from the California School of the Arts San Gabriel Valley to organize an art program for children at the library. With guidance from library staff, three students learned about the library program planning process and serving children of different ages. They brainstormed activities, made supply lists, and designed the program flyer, as well as recruited volunteers to help the day of the program. The two-hour program on November 23 attracted more than 40 in attendance. CSArts students helped kids make art using paints and create characters for comic books. In December, CSArts students presented at their school about the process of planning a program for the library. The program helped teens learn about the library and plan programs through a collaboration between the school and the library. They practiced their time management and decision-making skills, as well as ways to interact with younger children. Children at the library also benefitted from interacting with older students and exercising creativity through painting.

On October 19, and November 16, between 1 and 3 PM, we hosted our *Lego Club* program. We had five teen volunteers assist with the program. We had an average of 43 participants attend the two programs. There were children between the ages of 2 and 9 who attended the program, along with a number of parents and caregivers. Constructing with Legos provides many learning opportunities in alignment with our strategic plan, including creative expression, solving engineering challenges, and learning spatial relationships, as well as engaging in collaborative learning and discovery.

This year the library staff held *Santa Storytime* in the main lobby and the Youth Services area of the building to accommodate the large number of people who attend this special story time. This program was held while the library was closed, on Friday night and Saturday morning, December 6 and 7. Stories of our favorite man in red were told, holiday songs were sung, and even Santa himself came to read to the children and families in attendance. Participants had a chance to take a photo with Santa, choose a candy cane, make a Santa craft, watch a Christmas themed film, and receive a free book. *Santa story time* supports our goal of establishing a welcoming space where the community enjoys enriched experiences, while also contributing to our goal of supporting lifelong literacy. There were 359 attendees in attendance.

Partnering with the Monrovia Post Office, the Library provided a station from November 4 through December 7 for children to write letters to Santa, Book Characters, or serving Military. Once the letters were written and placed in the Library "mailbox", staff submitted the Santa letters to the post office, who

then made sure that a letter from Santa was mailed to their home. Letters to those in the Armed Forces were given to a Library volunteer who included them in holiday gift boxes. Letters written to book characters were answered and sent by staff members. A total of 232 letters were written. This activity not only aids in improving writing skills and strengthens community partnerships, but is a wonderful way to spread cheer during this time of year.