



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: July 23 , 2020

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

On June 10, Veterans Resource Center attended the Women's Veterans Alliance virtual forum. The discussion included women's veterans' unique health needs and the challenges they face in obtaining the healthcare. Supporting women who have served is a goal of the Veterans Resource Center.

On June 11 & 25 Adult and Circulation Services staff hosted virtual *Game Nights*. Participants played *Jackbox* e-games and used their phone or tablets as controllers. The program is a part of broadening patron experiences, a goal of the library's strategic plan.

On June 16, Literacy Center staff hosted the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) online professional development meeting. *Roles and Goals* was the topic. Ongoing staff development provides Literacy Coordinators, staff and tutors with best practices for adult literacy services.

On June 23, Adult Services staff hosted the Novel T's Book Club virtually using Zoom. Staff provided training and tech support to group members. Thirteen members participated in the discussion of John Steinbeck's *The Winter of Our Discontent*.

On June 29, Veterans Resource Center staff held a zoom meeting with volunteer veteran benefit coaches and guest speaker from County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO) Chris Harris, who updated staff and volunteers on current veteran benefit resources. Staff and volunteers connect both via phone and email throughout the month.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Story Times

Library staff continues to produce story times for social media. As with in-person story times, staff have used a variety of techniques and mediums to bring books to life for our community, including flannel stories, songs and bilingual Spanish/English components. Continuing story time on social media platforms ensures that we are helping children and their families with a variety of literacy and early education skills, including letter, color and number recognition, memorizing and vocabulary.

SciLab

In an instructional video, Library staff taught how to make *Floam*, an elastic polymer slime. Adding foam beads create texture that children can manipulate into shapes. This experiment can help stimulate senses like touch, sight, and smell. This activity also encourages texture exploration, brain stimulation, fine motor skills, language development, scientific thinking, and problem solving. Staff also made a SciLab video about ramps, simple machines, potential and kinetic energy and basic physics concepts, encouraging young learners to explore engineering principles.

Crafts and at-home Activities

In June weekly Craft Corner videos were posted to social media. These videos introduced new activities to families that could be made at home using minimal or recycled materials. The activities were directed towards pre-school through school-aged children and their families. Children and their families watched videos that presented craft activities such as making chalk art, friendship bracelets, and paper gliders using drinking draws. In June, three new craft videos were posted. The videos were engaged with ~150 times. This program supported 21st century learning skills in accordance with our strategic plan, including fine motor and *STEAM* skills.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

July TAB meeting took place via Zoom on July 6, and was attended by 18 TAB members. During this meeting, teens got updates on the new curbside pickup service, and learned about new volunteering opportunities helping with adult programs. Teens are also invited to share with other teens the projects they have been doing at home. Teens sent their drawings, recipes, and science experiments they have been doing. The content they shared is on the TAB website for other TAB members to see. TAB members also said they are looking forward to the new school year, and cannot wait to be able to help the library in more ways.

3M Grant

The 3M plant in Monrovia offered the Library an opportunity to apply for a grant that specifically highlighted the work staff is doing to educate young patrons in science, technology, engineering, and math. With more virtual learning activities being posted for students on the Library's social media outlets, librarians are focusing on at home projects that children and their families can create and learn from. The grant was accepted and the Library was awarded \$2,500 to help continue its desire to provide educational programming for youth.