



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: September 24, 2020

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

On August 8, Adult Services staff hosted *Worldwide Quercus: Virtual Oak Tree Tour* on Zoom with guest speaker, Frank McDonough, the LA Arboretum's Botanical Information Consultant. A total of 15 participants learned about oak trees in Monrovia, oaks in the Arboretum collection, and best practices for incorporating native plants into home gardens. This event was a part of the 2020 Book to Action grant offered by the California Center for the Book. Building partnerships is a key element of the library's strategic plan and provides enhanced experiences for the community.

On August 10, Veterans Resource Center staff held a zoom meeting with volunteer veteran benefit coaches and guest speakers included representatives from CalVet and CalTap, who updated staff and volunteers on current veteran benefit resources. Staff and volunteers connect both via phone and email throughout the month.

On August 13 & 27, Adult and Circulation Services staff hosted virtual *Game Nights*. Seven participants played Jackbox e-games and used their phone or tablets as controllers. The program is a way for the community to come together for some virtual fun and serves to broaden patron experiences, a goal of the library's strategic plan.

On August 15, Adult Services staff hosted *The Hidden Life of Trees Book Chat* using Zoom with guest speakers, Eugene Suk from the Monrovia Hillside Wilderness Preserve Team and Kristin Ritzau, Monrovia's Community Garden Director. A total of 8 attendees learned about Canyon Park, the Monrovia Community Garden, best practices for summer tree pruning, and enjoyed a discussion of Peter Wohlleben's best-selling novel, *The Hidden Life of Trees*. Physical and digital copies of the book were provided for free as a part of the 2020 Book to Action grant offered by the California Center for the Book.

On August 25, Literacy Center staff hosted the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) online professional development meeting. *Building Relationships with Organizations* was the discussion topic. Ongoing staff development provides Literacy Coordinators, staff and tutors with best practices for adult literacy services.

On August 25, Adult Services staff hosted the *Novel T's Book Club* virtually using Zoom. Staff provided training and tech support to group members. Seventeen members participated in the discussion of *The Lemon Tree*, by Sandy Tolann.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Storytime

The community continues to enjoy virtual story times, with 1,451 views in August. Staff read books, sang songs and danced. Stories included themes of friendship, and books such as *Brown Bear Brown Bear* by Bill Martin help children practice listening and short-term memory skills, which are essential to learning and retention. 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.

Science

Rock Science introduced children to different types of rocks and how to identify them for a learning experience children can easily do at home. Staff also demonstrated a *TinkerCad* step-by-step project for creating a star lantern using basic 3D design techniques, and learned about created capillary action and inertia. By providing content across multiple scientific fields, including geology, technology and physics, library staff have created opportunities for the community to develop and explore a wide array of scientific topics.

Crafts and at-home Activities

In August, 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 preschool through school-aged children and their families. Children and their families watched videos that presented craft activities such as making straw rockets, fold a paper whale, and make a fizzy baking soda and vinegar painting. Three new craft videos were posted in the month of August. The videos were engaged with one hundred seventy-seven times. This program supports 21st century learning skills in accordance with our strategic plan, including fine motor skills and STEAM skills.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting

The August TAB meeting took place via Zoom on August 3, and was attended by 17 TAB members. During this meeting, teens got updates about library services and learned about new opportunities to get involved in youth programming remotely. Teens are also invited to share with other teens the projects they have been doing at home. Those included trying to make Chick-Fil-A chicken nuggets, creating coloring sheets for younger siblings, and drawing K-Pop fanart. The content they shared is on the TAB website for other TAB members to see.