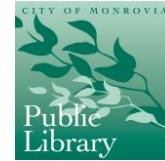




**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: **Community Services, Library Division**

MEETING DATE: October 22, 2020

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 September 8, Literacy Center staff hosted a virtual tutor meetup for volunteer tutors. Staff updated tutors on upcoming webinars and previewed new materials for adult learners. Ongoing tutor training provides tutors with best practices for adult learners.

On September 9, Veterans Resource Center staff attended the virtual meeting of the USC Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative. The Collaborative meets to improve veterans access to services and reduce barriers to care. Topics included resources for serving LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual), homeless, and women veterans.

On September 11, Veterans Resource Center staff held a monthly virtual meeting with volunteer veteran benefit coaches, who updated staff and volunteers on current veteran benefit resources. Staff and volunteers connect both via phone, email, and zoom throughout the month.

On September 15, Literacy Center staff hosted the Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN) virtual workshop. *Tutor Ready Writing* was the discussion topic and included virtual breakout rooms where tutors and learners used story starters as writing prompts. Fifty-five tutors and learners participated in the workshop.

On September 21, Literacy Center staff facilitated the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) online webinar. *Covid Diaries* was the topic, which encouraged adult learners to write their experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic. Breakout rooms and writing prompts were used to engage adult learners and tutors.

On September 22, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual Novel T's Book Club. Seventeen members participated in the discussion of *The Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell.

**YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

***Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting***

The August TAB meeting took place via Zoom on October 5, and was attended by 25 TAB members. There were four new TAB members at this meeting, and teens were interested in connecting with other teens and talking about their school experience. Members learned about the Fall Reading program, including how to

submit activities and book reviews and encourage their younger siblings to read. They also discussed programming for fall and winter, and gave suggestions for programs they would like to attend. Attendance increased this month, and the consistency of teens attending and telling their friends about TAB signifies the important role the library plays in connecting teens with library services and their peers, giving them an opportunity to stay connected and support each other and the library.

### ***SciLab***

STEM videos continue to be popular with families, this month children learned about mycelium in a hands-on science experiment. Mycelium consists of filaments and feeds the above-ground part of mushrooms, and can be grown from mushrooms in a moist, dark environment. The experiment consisted of using oyster mushrooms and damp cardboard to grow mycelium in a jar. They also learned about exothermic reactions with an “elephant toothpaste” experiment, and the concept of diffusion by watching dye move through water. The SciLab videos had a total of 641 views in September.

### ***Storytime***

Families continue to eagerly participate in story times, gaining access to invaluable early literacy practice from home. Staff read books, had sing-alongs with props, scarves, or socks, and shakers. Staff members partnered across virtual programs for the first time this month, so that children could take one element created in a craft video, shakers, and use them in a shaker story time in another video. These videos are an important component of early literacy practice while children and their families are safer at home. They had a total of 1,737 views in September.

### ***Crafts***

Library staff invited families to create recycled sun catchers, magnet mazes and paper snakes this month, among other crafts. Each video encourages kids to create something at home with easy to access supplies, ensuring a large number of people can participate. Each craft is selected to ensure kids continue to have the wide breadth of informal, hands on learning opportunities we provided at in-house programs, such as developing fine and gross motor skills, creativity and problem-solving. The videos had a total of 1,056 views in September.