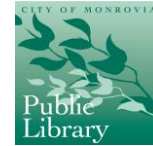




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2021

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

On October 22 and November 12, Adult and Circulation Services staff hosted virtual Game Night. Participants played Jackbox e-games and used their phone or tablets as controllers. A total of six participants attended both events.

On October 14, November 10, and December 1, Veterans Resource Center staff attended the virtual meetings of the *USC Los Angeles Veterans Collaborative*. The *Collaborative* meets to improve veterans access to services and reduce barriers to care. Topics included Housing and Homeless Veterans, Health and Well-Being of U.S. Veterans During the Covid-19 Pandemic, and *Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN)* for Mental Health.

On October 14, November 17, and December 9, Veterans Resource Center staff attended *CalVet* virtual meetings. Topics include Serving Minority and Underrepresented Veterans, Resources for Incarcerated Veterans, and Mindfulness Practices for Reducing Holiday Stress and Anxiety.

In October and November, Adult Services staff hosted virtual *Gather and Make* craft programs for teens and adults with a total of 15 attendees. Participants gathered together over Zoom with fellow DIY enthusiasts and created maker projects. Projects included Fall Yarn Tassel Garlands and Holiday Origami.

On October 21, Veterans Resource Center Staff attended the virtual *CalVet Women Veterans 9th Annual Reception* in honor of women veterans. California State Leaders recognized the valuable and important contributions that women make to the nation while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

On October 22, November 4, and November 21, Literacy Center staff attended the *California Library Literacy Services (CLLS)* online virtual webinars. Topics included, Tutor Ready Resources, Promoting Literacy Services, and Funding and Reporting.

On October 22 & November 17, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual *Novel T's Book Club* with a total attendance of 33 members. Members enthusiastically participated in October's discussion of *The Witches of Eastwick* by John Updike and November's discussion of *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride. November's meeting included members dressing up in silly costumes instead of the annual potluck dinner.

CC-2

On November 11, Veterans Resource Center staff and volunteers hosted a table at the Veterans Day event in the park, that included a Field of Honor to recognize, thank, and remember veterans. Community members wrote messages of appreciation and attached them to flag poles stationed throughout the park.

On November 23, Veterans Resource Center Staff attended a virtual *Women's Veterans Alliance meeting* to learn about the 2021 Black Family Fellowship for Veterans. Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School offer educational fellowship opportunities to 25 students for 2021.

On December 4, Literacy Center staff attended the *Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN)* virtual meeting. The discussion topic was Reopening Literacy Centers: Planning, Policies, and Safety.

On December 5, Adult Services staff hosted the annual *Holiday Sounds* musical program virtually. Host Cheryl Lopez introduced the Avanti Trio, Emma Frost Rostykus, and Sam Marley Trio and held a mini audience Q&A session with performers. Thirty-nine attendees enjoyed the program which included a mix of traditional holiday and contemporary selections.

On December 18, Literacy Center staff hosted the annual gathering of tutors and learners to celebrate their accomplishments for 2020 and discuss future goals. Ten tutors and learners attended the Zoom meeting.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting

The November Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on November 2 and was attended by 26 teens. Teens talked about school and classes they were enjoying or struggling with, and gave each other advice for studying for certain subjects. At this meeting, the teens talked about projects they were working on outside of school, and submitted book reviews for service hours. The Teen Advisory Board has been essential in connecting Monrovia teens to each other and giving them an opportunity to connect in an informal environment and share their interests. During this time it is especially important for teens to be a part of a community and have a sense of belonging, which TAB has been providing, as seen by the continued strong attendance at TAB meetings.

The December meeting attracted 23 teens, who were actively engaged in program planning for winter months. At this meeting, TAB members made suggestions for various platforms that could support TAB activities online. The Teen Advisory officers surveyed members and decided to use Discord. Several teens volunteered to set up and test a channel for TAB and organize it to suit TAB needs. Teens have been active in making suggestions and being involved in planning for future months. Despite the lack of in-person volunteering opportunities, teens have showed their leadership skills in reformatting TAB meetings and finding ways to connect with their peers.

December 14- Mrs. Claus

Staff arranged our first live Zoom storytime program. *Mrs. Claus* read Christmas books, sang some Christmas classics and did a craft. Over 80 participants joined us for the event. This was a great opportunity to connect with our community and be able to interact with families in real time. The recording was then put on YouTube where it continues to be viewed.

December 16 – Zoom Club

Zoom Club was offered to 1st through 5th graders. This was an opportunity for students to socialize and have fun after school. This forty five minutes program had two students in attendance, but with additional promotions should garner more participation in the coming months. Games played were *Zoom Around the*

Room and Name Three. Children were able to socialize and strengthen critical thinking and team building skills.

December 18 – Santa Storytime

Library Staff provided an opportunity for young children to listen to stories about Santa Claus, sing, and see the jolly man himself read a book. Through virtual programming, families could celebrate the holiday with a fun and interactive video that could be viewed multiple times on their schedule and in the comfort of their own homes.