



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: **Community Services, Library Division**

MEETING DATE: April 22, 2021

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

On March 3, Veterans Resource Center staff attended the virtual meeting of Volunteer Match. The topic was *Engaging Volunteers in New Ways* and included trends that are influencing volunteer engagement.

On March 10, 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 Covid-19 vaccinations, resources and services for veterans.

On March 10, Veterans Resource Center staff attended the webinar of the Veterans Connect @ the Library. The topic was a resume workshop using the library's Brainfuse platform, JobNow/Vetnow.

On March 18, Veterans Resource Center staff attended the virtual *Los Angeles Partner Spotlight Event* hosted by Unite Us. The Los Angeles Coordinated Community Network presented information on key programs for veterans and their family members.

On March 16, Literacy Center staff attended the Southeast Collaborative Online Conference. The topic was *Instruction During Uncertainty: Delivering Training in Challenging Times*, how current events impact volunteer training and best practices.

On March 17, Literacy Services Staff attended the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) online virtual workshop. The topic was *Family Literacy Activities* and literacy coordinators from different libraries provided family literacy activities and resources.

On March 18, Literacy Center staff attended the Southeast Collaborative Online Conference. The topic was *Building a Digital Branch*, which highlighted best practices for improving library online accessibility.

On March 18, Literacy Center staff attended the Southeast Collaborative Online Conference. The topic was *Dyslexia Friendly Libraries*, focusing on best practices for making libraries friendly and inclusive for people with dyslexia.

On March 19, Literacy Services Staff attended the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) online virtual workshop. The topic was *Adult Literacy and Learning* and included theories and research for adult literacy learners.

On March 23, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual Novel T's Book Club. A total of 17 members participated in the March discussion of *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*, by Trevor Noah.

On March 24, Veterans Resource Center Staff attended a virtual webinar, *Get Connected and Engaged with your Veteran Coalition/Collaborative* presented by Veteran's Connect @ the Library. A panel of Veterans Coalition members presented information on upcoming virtual events for veterans.

On March 24, Veterans Resource Center Staff attended a webinar, *Tapping for Women Veterans Self-Care* hosted by CalVet and presented by the Mindful Veterans Project. The presentation included information on the Emotional Freedom Technique (tapping) which can help with easing anxiety, distress and intense emotions.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

YouTube Puppet Sing Along

March 25 was the first of two recorded sing-along programs posted on YouTube. Staff hosted the program, joined by different singing and talking puppets that helped to sing songs, including, *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*, *Old MacDonald* and more. Music is an important component of early education because it touches all areas of child development and skills for school readiness, including intellectual, social-emotional, motor, language, and overall literacy. The program was well received, with viewings in the 90th percentile for number of watches in the first twenty-four hours of posting.

Storytimes

Online Storytime videos are still going strong, with inclusive bilingual songs about numbers and fingerplays for all to enjoy. Books read covered important topics such as managing jealousy through gratitude and reading social cues to learn how control your volume. Continuing story time on YouTube ensures that we are helping children and their families with a variety of literacy and early education skills, including literacy, the development of motor skills and social skills.

Live Zoom Storytimes

A live Zoom storytime was held with a *Luck and Rainbows* theme. Children read along with staff as they shared rainbow themed stories and made a rainbow craft. These monthly events allow children and their families to engage with the stories and songs they are enjoying and interact with library staff, a process that mirrors the social interactions and stimulation participants benefit from during in-person story time. Total of 88 participants attended.

Spring DIY Craft Kits

In March, we distributed the first of our *Spring DIY Craft Kits*. The kits contained freeform crafting materials and were directed towards school age children. In addition to the kits a special *Craft Corner* video was produced for YouTube that promoted the kits and showed kids how they could make *Monster Bookmarks* with the materials provided. There were 40 kits provided to families through curbside pick-up. This program supports 21st century learning skills in accordance with our strategic plan, including fine motor and STEAM skills.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

The March Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on Monday, March 1, and was attended by 20 teens. Teens discussed hosting teen programs online for March and April. The TAB members also volunteered to participate in the *Arbor Day* video with the Youth Commission, TAB has been a mainstay in

teen services during the pandemic, and teens have been using the opportunity to catch up with each other and get updates about the library. Teens have been more engaged during meetings and in-between, participating in discussion and brainstorming ways to participate in library activities

STEM

Children learned how light works, and were introduced to diffraction and refraction. After watching the video, children could make a reservation for free Firework Glasses to pick up during Curbside Pickup hours. Viewers were also encouraged to experiment with different recipes for the classic vinegar and baking soda volcano, making their own observations regarding how different quantities affected the explosion. These programs provide opportunities for Monrovia families to access hands-on *STEM* activities with everyday supplies from home.

Zoom Club

This after-school virtual program allows children to socialize and have fun by playing games together. Offered on Wednesday, March 17, participants were encouraged to wear green to celebrate *St. Patrick's Day*. A green themed guessing game was played, as well as a *Scavenger Hunt*. *Zoom Club* provides an opportunity for kids to have fun and socialize across grades.

Book Talk: Ten Out of Ten

To support literacy and encourage a love of stories, *Book Talks* introduce new literature to young readers in a fun and entertaining way. This video highlighted ten staff favorites by incorporating visually stimulating mini summaries to entice kids to check-out different genres and new materials available at the library.

Outreach

The Monrovia Rotary Club requested a Zoom presentation of the *History of the Monrovia Public Library*. Library Staff explained how the city's library started out renting one room in a bank to where we currently serve the public, the journey to get there, and the story of the generosity of those that helped make it happen. This visit occurred on March 2, 2021 with 30 in attendance.