



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Elder,
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MEETING DATE: July 22, 2021

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Literacy Services

In June, a total of 141 learners and tutors participated in 22 programs, including the Culture & Conversation group, Speak Easy group, the Write Club, the Nonfiction Club, and the learner Book Club. All programs took place virtually, allowing learners to continue their progress on their literacy journey. During this month, staff attended the *Literacy Initiatives Statewide Conversation* about serving hard-to-reach families, and hosted the quarterly Tutor & Learner Meetup for Monrovia literacy volunteers.

Veterans Services

On June 3, Veterans Resource Center staff attended the *California Transition Assistance Program* (CaITAP) meeting for *Minority and Underrepresented Veterans* sponsored by *Ca/Vet*, highlighting information and resources for service members and their families. This month staff provided services and support to 18 veterans and their family members.

Novel T's Book Club

On May 25, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual *Novel T's Book Club*. A total of 12 members participated in the May discussion of *Through the Looking Glass*, by Lewis Carroll.

Bloom Where You Are Planted: Wellness through Gentle Yoga and Mindfulness

On June 12, Peggy Burt, *Mindfulness/Arts Education Coach*, led participants through mindful arts and movement for stress reduction and joy. Sixteen participants attended the program which included guided meditation and creative arts activity for self-care and self-compassion.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

STORYTIME

Virtual Storytimes continued weekly through June. One story read demonstrates how to create something from nothing. This funny and charming story shows future authors how to set up a storyline from beginning to end. Books such as this help children to define, organize and express themselves, supporting 21st Century learning skills such as communication and creativity.

The library held the first in-person storytime since March 2020 in Library Park on June 12, 2021. Staff read stories, sang songs and passed out crafts to participants that could be taken home and done later. Library staff were happy to be reunited with the children and families we support, and parents expressed how happy they were to have live storytimes again. Library staff are excited to bring live storytimes back on a regular basis. A total of 33 children and their families attended.

STEM

The *Science in Nature: Butterflies* virtual series teaches children about science within nature. Viewers learned about the life cycle of a butterfly, and the importance of these insects. After viewing the video, families could come to the Library and ask for a free packet of milkweed seeds, the only food source for Monarch butterflies. Milkweed is rapidly disappearing due to habitat loss. Planting the seeds provides food for butterflies and provides opportunities for families to observe these insects.

CRAFTS

In June, we introduced the virtual *Crafternoon Hangout program*. Patrons could register for a free craft box full of DIY materials and tools. Some of the materials included were scissors, glue, colored pencils, stickers, and much more. In addition to the craft boxes, on June 19th we also held a Zoom hangout where kids would craft and chat together. The program is directed towards school age children and will be held two more times in July and August. There were 18 registrants and 15 craft boxes were distributed. This program supports 21st century learning skills in accordance with our strategic plan, including fine motor and STEM skills.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Ukulele Lessons

Library staff provided a five week Zoom series for school aged children. Partnering with Joe Ferrante Music Academy, students learned how to tune their instrument, music reading, melody playing, chords, strumming, and playing positions. After the course, attendees were able to play simple melodies like *Frere Jacques*, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, and *Ode to Joy*. The Library provided instruments to check out and a method book. Students were able to keep the book at the end of the five week lesson as an incentive to continue their learning experience. Attendance was capped to 12 to allow attention to each student, and the weekly attendance average was 10 participants.

Zoom Club

This after-school virtual program allows children to socialize and have fun by playing games together. Offered on Wednesday, June 16, participants were encouraged to wear summer attire for this Zoom event. There was a summer themed online game called *Fun in the Sun* and a *Get to Know You* game where children shared about their favorite things, their family, and traditions. A total of two students were in attendance.

How to Draw Cartoons

Patrons can go to the Library's YouTube site and view instructional videos made available by a professional cartoonist. The videos are rolled out every few weeks and available for thirty days to give viewers an opportunity to enjoy and master each session. Kids can learn to draw characters from author Mo Willems' beloved books as well as Captain Underpants and other silly characters and animals. Each video is available for viewing for 30 days and can be watched multiple times.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB) PROGRAMS

Yarn Crafts

Yarn Crafts took place on June 7 after the monthly Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting. Participants picked up yarn craft kits prior to the program, and had the choice of a yarn llama or rainbow wall hanging and met on Discord to make their craft. Teens especially enjoyed making the yarn llama freestanding sculpture. The Teen Advisory Board members have been asking for more teen craft programs, and this was one they could enjoy doing at home at their own pace. During the pandemic, many TAB members used their time to engage in new hobbies at home, and making colorful decorations and accessories was something they expressed interest in. They shared their progress with each other on Discord during the program. Six teens participated in this program.

STEM Kits: Soap Making

Soap making stem kits were purchased with STEM virtual program grant funds. This was a passive programs teens could enjoy at home after picking up kits at the library. The kits were popular with teens, some of whom picked them up to enjoy with friends at home. Since many teens attended school virtually for a year and had many opportunities for online interaction, TAB recommended holding the program passively without meeting online. This way, teens could enjoy the activity at their own pace, and share their experience with others.