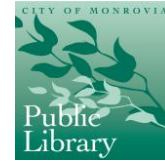




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: August 26, 2021

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Literacy Services

In July, a total of 30 learners and tutors participated in four programs, as some of our groups took a brief break during the summer months. During this month, staff attended the *Crafting Inclusive Volunteer Recruitment Messages, Engaging and Recruiting Volunteers from BIPOC Communities*, sponsored by Get Involved, Powered by Your Library.

Veterans Services

On July 20, Veterans Resource Center staff welcomed Rhaniel Miel, a new addition to the Veterans Resource Center. Rhaniel is a staff member at *LA County Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN)*, which connects the Veterans Affairs (VA), County, non-profits, and other veteran programs to serve veterans and their families. Rhaniel will be onsite on Tuesdays from 9am-5pm to provide resources for mental health, housing, employment, health, education, and legal services. This month staff provided services and support to 19 veterans and their family members.

These Hands

On July 10, Adult Services staff partnered with *Story Center* and hosted a three hour virtual digital storytelling workshop. Participants created a short digital story through the use of a special writing prompt. Seven attendees brought an object of meaning or sentimental value that represented where their hands have moved through their world, work, travels, and spiritual or learning journey.

Novel T's Book Club

On July 27, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual *Novel T's Book Club*. A total of 11 members participated in the monthly group discussion of *Union: A Democrat, a Republican and a Search for Common Ground* by authors Jordan Blashek and Christopher Haugh.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Storytime

Virtual storytime continues on our YouTube channel, ensuring that families can participate in literacy activities and life-long learning at a time most convenient for them. Stories shared include a story about night noises, in which sounds from the croak of a bullfrog to the howl of a coyote are explored, introducing animal sounds and rhymes, as well as a story about a rope who wants to be a snake, but discovers he can

do something that snake cannot, he can knot. Virtual storytime programming received a total of 33 views over the past month.

On Saturday, July 24, we held our last Storytime in the Park for the summer. We read stories, sang songs (with freshly sanitized egg shakers), had an impromptu bubble dance session and passed out take home craft bags, with materials to make a kaleidoscope, to attendees. Parents and caregivers were enthusiastic and thankful about the return of live storytime and expressed interest in more live storytimes, which we will roll out in the fall. A total of 44 attendees came out to join the fun.

Stem

On July 29, we had our second LEGO Stem Play virtual program. A total of 15 children between the ages of 6 and 12 attended this program. We used a book with LEGO based engineering projects as a construction guide. After completing two book-based projects, we encouraged participants to use the book, their imagination or both to build whatever they wanted. The end products were a creative mix of bridges, ramps, catapults, and a cat hat. The program was successful with parents asking if there will be another session. Benefits of the program include the development of mathematical skills, spatial awareness and critical thinking. This program was sponsored by the Youth Services Virtual Programming Grant.

Crafts

In July we held our second Crafternoon Hangout on Zoom. Patrons were able to register for a kit containing DIY craft materials and tools. We had another 18 registrants for this event and 15 craft boxes were distributed. During the live Zoom hangout, seven participants made several crafts and chatted about what they were working on. At the end of the event, we all shared what we made. This program supports 21st century learning skills in accordance with our strategic plan, including fine motor and STEAM skills. It was supported by funds from the Youth Services Virtual Programming Grant.

Additional Programs

Live YouTube Storytime – Happy Birthday America!

On Thursday, July 1, in celebration of Fourth of July, the library hosted a live storytime on its YouTube channel. Packed full of stories and songs, families marched along to classics like *Yankee Doodle* and *The Grand Old Duke of York*. One of the stories shared was *Crankee Doodle* by Tom Angleberger, about a young soldier who wasn't in the mood to ride his pony or put a feather in his hat. Each participant could pick up a craft bag ahead of time at the library and make a themed American flag to help them celebrate this upcoming holiday. A total of 36 people viewed this program.

How to Draw Cartoons

With the help of Cartoonist Dave Boatman, patrons were able to go to the Library's YouTube channel and view instructional drawing videos. On July 8, participants who registered learned how to illustrate the popular *Captain Underpants* character. Each video is available for viewing for 30 days and can be watched multiple times. This program was a great way for patrons to practice creativity, fine motor skills and visual literacy. The videos have a total of 198 views. This program was sponsored by the Youth Services Virtual Programming Grant.

Teen

The July Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on Zoom and was attended by 22 TAB members. Teens got updates on fall library programs, as well as the in-person TAB meeting the following month. This is a time of change for teens, who are getting closer to resuming normal activities of socializing with friends and getting ready to attend school in-person. While interest in virtual programming is waning, TAB attendance has held steady. Despite the absence of an on-site summer reading program or more volunteer opportunities, teens have been attending TAB meetings and staying connected with the library, which has provided a sense of stability throughout the pandemic.

The *Sticker & Chill* program was held virtually following the TAB meeting. Six teens signed up and picked up their kits from the library. One of the teens who attended the program was not a member of TAB, but learned about TAB during the program. As an incoming 6th grader, the program was a great opportunity for her to learn about library programs and TAB, which provides a welcoming environment for teens as they transition into middle school or high school.

Outreach

Boys and Girls Club at Plymouth Elementary

On Wednesday, July 21 the Monrovia Reads van visited Plymouth Elementary to share stories and make library cards for children from 1st to 5th grade. They colored bookmarks and many were able to check out books to take home. Participating in this on-campus event was a great way for the Library to begin reconnecting with kids at their schools.

15th Anniversary MAP Block Party

On Saturday, July 31, the Library attended the 15th Anniversary MAP Block Party at Julian Fisher Park. Staff shared information about library services and programs with all who stopped by. Children and adults filled out special hearts and completed the statements, “What I love (about my community)” and “What I want (in my community)”. Some responses to the “What I love” prompt included family, the community, the library, youth activities, connection with people, pomegranate trees, and wildlife. “What I want” answers included: more block parties, more toys, more affordable housing, a water park, continued maintenance of trails and parks, and no more COVID. This casual activity will continue in the library and is being used to gain insight into the current priorities of community members and determine how the library can best meet the community’s needs.