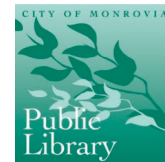




**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services, Library Division

**MEETING DATE:** January 27, 2022

**PREPARED BY:** Rebecca Elder,  
Adult and Literacy Services Supervisor

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

---

**ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

On October 6, staff hosted *Live on Instagram, Food ED on the Plants & Pals Monrovia Pollinator Program*. Thirty participants learned about Monrovia's Plants and Pals Pollinator Program from local non-profit Food Exploration and Discovery (Food ED) and featured Q&A. This event was recorded and posted on the Library's YouTube Channel.

On October 27, staff hosted *Live on Instagram, Monrovia Community Garden on Fall/Winter Gardening*. Forty-three participants listened in as the Monrovia Community Garden provided great tips for the upcoming seasons along with Q&A time. This event was recorded and posted on the Library's YouTube Channel.

On December 11, the twelfth annual *Holiday Sounds Concert* was held virtually. Each year host and flutist Cheryl Lopez gathers local musicians and this year's event included Linda Krantz: Solo Handbell Artist; the Northridge Flute Trio; and the San Gabriel Academy Choir and Band. Eighty-four participants enjoyed the virtual event, which was recorded and has been viewed 52 times on the Library's YouTube Channel.

***Literacy Services***

During the month of October, a total of 28 learners and tutors participated in 4 programs. During this month, staff attended an author's panel for the Traveling Vietnam Memorial hosted by Corona Public Library and featuring Mabel Ngo, author and MPL literacy learner.

In November, a total of 30 Learners and tutors participated in 4 programs. On November 10, Adult Literacy Consultant, Amy Prevedel presented "Relax Into Writing", a writing workshop for tutors and learners that included mindfulness tools to use while writing. On November 18, staff attended CLLS' Theory and Practice webinar on Power, Privilege, and Intersectionality, which included tutoring strategies to use with adult learners.

In December, a total of 38 Learners and Tutors participated in 5 programs. During this month, staff provided *Happy Reading Together*, a family literacy take home kit, which included a book and learning activity. The activity encouraged families to read together to support early literacy skills, and craft together to support fine motor skills, boost self-esteem, and encourage self-expression. Staff also attended, *Rekindling from Burnout: Lessons and Strategies for Public Library Workers*, a workshop which included strategies & actions to build resiliency and networks of support for staff and tutors.

### **Veterans Services**

During the month of October, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 111 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 55; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 11; and VRC staff 45. Staff and volunteer, Joe Callahan were interviewed for ABC Eyewitness News Salute's segment, promoting the Veterans Resource Center.

During the month of November, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 132 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 55; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 30; and VRC staff 47. Staff provided resources at the Veteran's Day Event in Library Park on November 11.

During the month of December, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 133 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 65; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 7; and VRC staff 61. On December 2, staff attended a workshop for *Unite California*, a coordinated care network of over 370 health and social service providers that support veterans and their families. On December 14, staff attended the American Legion Women's Auxiliary Holiday Luncheon, one of the VRC's community partners who serve veterans and their family members.

### **Novel T's Book Club**

On October 28, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual Novel T's Book Club. A total of 12 members participated in the monthly group discussion of *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman.

On November 16, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual Novel T's Book Club. A total of 13 members participated in the monthly group discussion of *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich.

## **YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

### **Storytime in the Park**

In-person storytimes were held in Library Park on Wednesdays and Saturdays for families, with a total of 811 participants in October and November. Holding the program in the park allows everyone to remain safe and healthy while enjoying a beloved library program that builds early literacy skills.

### **Book Talks at Bradoaks**

On October 22, Library Staff visited three of the Bradoaks elementary 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes to provide booktalks. Booktalks spark literary interest and while enjoying an interactive game, 60 students listened to the newest and most recognized titles during a 30 minute presentation.

### **Wild Rose Family Campout**

On October 22, Library Staff was invited to read stories at this school event. Ten Children and their caregivers joined a librarian for an intimate story circle and read books as part of an exciting evening program which included food, vendors, and movie night.

### **Art Time**

Partnering with a local art school, 17 children between the ages of 7 and 12, registered to participate in an art instruction program on November 22. Using unique and revolutionary approaches to teaching, kids learned step-by-step how to draw a picture using shapes. They learned about shading, depth, blending, colors, and how to bring their image to life on the page using colored charcoal. Each young artist was able to bring their work of art home after the program.

### **Canyon Early Learning Center Visits**

On November 18, Library Staff visited the local public preschool to read stories, dance, and sing. Every student participated by visiting the campus' multipurpose room and rotating through six 30 minute storytelling experiences. Approximately 200 students attended.

### **Bradoaks Library Visits**

On November 19, three third grade classes visited the library and enjoyed a presentation on its history, as well as a walk-around tour. Students learned how the first library started in the city and how through the generous efforts of many people along the way, they now have the beautiful building we enjoy today. Staff talked about the community, park, surrounding art, and other unique facts about Monrovia. Students were able to receive library cards, check out materials, and participate in an interactive program. Approximately 100 children and adults were in attendance.

### **Unmaker Lab**

On Saturday November 13, the library held an Unmaker Lab program where 17 curious children were able to take all sorts of electronic devices apart to better understand how these machines work. We even had a couple of confident participants reassemble the equipment they had earlier dismantled. The children, with the aid of a teen volunteer and the adults accompanying them, deconstructed keyboards (computer and music), electronic drum kits, remote control cars, alarm clocks, a sewing machine and an assortment of other appliances, toys and machines. The feedback was all very positive after the program, with a number of attendees expressing gratitude and a desire to repeat the program. This program helps nurture the natural desire to explore and learn which research has shown to be associated with higher levels of positive emotions, lower levels of anxiety, more satisfaction with life, and greater psychological well-being.

### **Teen Advisory Board**

The October TAB meeting was led by the TAB officer board. 20 TAB members attended the meeting. At the meeting TAB members got updates about fall programs, and signed up to help with Make a Difference Day, Library Haunted Maze, and Storytime in the Park. Teens also participated in creating a seasonal book display in the library teen area. TAB members came together to brainstorm ideas for a display, then used the library's Cricut machine to cut out decorations for the display.

The November TAB meeting was led by the TAB officer board and had 23 members in attendance. The December meeting had 35 members attend and they learned about volunteer opportunities for the Santa Storytimes. Over the past year, teens have had more of a role in organizing TAB activities, giving them an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and be more engaged in library services.

### **Laser Tag**

Fall's second Laser Tag program took place on Friday, October 22 and was attended by 42 teens. The program was popular younger and older teens who attended the program with their friends. Teens broke up into groups and took turns playing for the entirety of the two-hour program. The high attendance for this program was fueled by outreach visits to Clifton and Santa Fe Middle Schools with the Monrovia Reads Van, as well as word-of-mouth within those schools. The library was a popular destination on Friday night, and programs like this provide a safe space for teens to enjoy the library while having fun and being active.