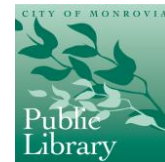




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services,
Library Division

MEETING DATE: March 24, 2022

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Elder,
Adult Services Supervisor
Carey Vance,
Library Manager

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Literacy Services

In February, a total of 38 learners and tutors participated in five programs. During this month, Staff completed and submitted the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) Mid-Year Report and Pre Application this month.

On February 10, staff hosted *Recipes to Remember*, a virtual recipe and memory share program to support learners in their reading, writing, and pronunciation goals. Six learners shared their recipes and memories, and one of the learners prepared a presentation using her newly acquired digital literacy skills. All attendees were provided copies of the recipes that were shared.

Veterans Services

During the month of February, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 88 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 20; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 15; and VRC staff 53. Staff attended a CalVet workshop on *My HealthVet*. Veterans can schedule appointments online, refill prescriptions, view their health records, and send Secure Messages to their team using *My HealthVet*.

On February 3, staff hosted a virtual job skills workshop facilitated by Thomas Salazar from Jobs Vision Success (JVS) SoCal. Two participants attended the workshop which offered tips and tools on the commonly used platforms and trends in interviewing as well as the new do's and don'ts of virtual interviewing.

Novel T's Book Club

On February 22, Adult Services staff hosted the virtual Novel T's Book Club. A total of 12 members participated in the monthly group discussion of *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Storytimes

Storytime in the Park for families with young children continued into the month of February. The beautiful weather and picturesque scenery of Library Park inspired and energized everyone as we shared songs,

rhymes, stories and crafts together in the park. The children used egg shakers and bean bags during the storytime to aid in the development of fine and gross motor skills. As always, staff continue to tout the benefits of talking, reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds while also offering assorted opportunities to talk, read, sing, write and play at storytime. A total of 362 joined in the fun at the storytimes on Wednesdays and Saturdays in February.

Programs

Black History Month – This program was held on Saturday, February 19 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Library. Partnering with the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association, attendees enjoyed music and movement with the drumming and storytelling talents of Rhythm of the Village. The theme this year was Black Health and Wellness, so children ages eight and under were able to participate in the library’s Imagination Station and pretended they were doctors and nurses, buying healthy foods at the grocery store, cooking, and serving by playing with age appropriate toys. Heading into the Youth Services Area, a display celebrated well-known African American doctors, inventors, and scientists, while giving a brief description of their accomplishments and successes. In the Youth Area, families could create musical instruments like drums and rain sticks. Outside, booths were in Library Park which offered patrons the chance to collect information from a holistic health coach and the Day One organization. Approximately 80 participants were present.

Lego Science – On the afternoon of February 23, staff held a *LEGO Science* program for 21 children between the ages of 6 and 11 in front of the Library. The attendees were presented with three specific STEM-related activities as well as an area for free building, to challenge their critical thinking, problem solving abilities and concentration. The children were tasked with building the longest bridge, making a maze for marbles and constructing a racecar to race against others. Interest seemed to be pretty evenly spread between all three of the challenges, with each area serving as the busiest at some point, during the program. Throughout the program, we encouraged the children to play and enjoy themselves while also developing the aforementioned soft skills. A number of the parents and caregivers of the children attending the program expressed their gratitude for the library and asked, specifically, for more LEGO/science-related programming for school aged children.

Virtual Programming – This month’s virtual offerings included a special series of Black History Month storytimes, each introduced by a member of the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association. Titles highlighted for the storytimes were aligned with this year’s Black History Month theme of health and wellness. The titles included *In the Garden with Dr. Carver* by Susan Grigsby, *Feast for 10* by Cathyrn Falwell, *Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, and *Community Soup* by Alma Fullerton. The booktalk series, “Ten Out of Ten”, that encourages children to discover new titles also continued over the month. The videos in February had a total of 56 views.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) – Last month’s TAB meeting took place on February 7, and was attended by 32 TAB members. The meeting was held in the Library Community Room and teens were able to sign up to volunteer for programs and special events in the community. Teens volunteered to support the Black History Month event at the library, the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association’s art showcase, and Saturday storytimes in Library Park.

Outreach

Canyon Early Learning Center Preschool (CELC) – On February 10, library staff visited six classes of CELC students, who enjoyed storytimes about love, just in time for Valentine’s Day. Music, dancing, and instruments were included as children practiced their rhythm and listening skills. Approximately 180 children were in attendance.

Monrovia High School Special Development Classes – On February 24, staff engaged two teen special needs classes. Group one enjoyed a sensory storytime which included stories, bean bag play, props, and movement. Group two participated in book and career discussions and watched a Book Talk Video from the Library's YouTube channel. Approximately 25 total were in attendance.

Monrovia Reads Van – The van had a total of 18 visits across all school sites in Monrovia in February. A total of 754 students were served with staff creating 19 new library cards and the children borrowing 666 books.

Outreach to local schools both with the van and librarian school visits align with the library's strategic plan to provide wider access to library services across the community as well as provide services to those in South Monrovia. A total of 959 students were reached by library staff in February during outreach visits.