



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Public Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: July 23, 2015

PREPARED BY: Linda Granicy, Senior Librarian

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

TITLE: Adult and Youth Services Report

TECHNOLOGY: The Monrovia Public Library Foundation pledged funding to upgrade the Library's public computers. Public access computers for the three Hoffman Technology Centers, Youth, Teen and Adult were last replaced when the new library building opened in May 2009. The plan is to replace the public workstations, software, and servers in three phases over the next two years. The Library Foundation donated \$32,000 for Phase I, which was recently completed with the installation of 23 new computers in the Adult Technology Center.

CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS: Librarian II Rebecca Elder recently attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference (NAEYC) held in New Orleans. Over 2,700 attendees had an opportunity to listen to a panel of educators discuss their experiences in the field of early childhood education and attend a "leadership speed date," designed to inform members about the different opportunities available within the association. The advocacy session offered tips for educating attendees on effective advocacy at the local level. Last Year, President Obama called upon Congress to expand access to high-quality preschools for every child in America. In January, President Obama challenged local advocates to help more children access the early education they need to succeed in school and in life. This bipartisan cooperation has led to a substantial increase in federal investment in early education. Conference sessions also included information about the use of technology in early childhood education and the importance of linking early childhood education to positive outcomes for families and communities. Attendees participated in several hands-on activities, including STEM science and play based learning. Staff is proud to report the Library currently incorporates STEM techniques when presenting programming to the community. Staff also learned about the latest research on play and parent engagement programming methods. Exhibitors included a wide variety of indoor and outdoor play, books and materials to support STEM and early literacy programming.

Librarian I Gail Jebbia recently attended a STEM Workshop hosted by Irwindale Public Library Director Ryan Baker. Ryan modeled how program presenters could organize and run a variety of STEM programs. Workshop attendees were organized in teams to work on projects. One useful skill learned was how to use open-ended questions. Ryan moved from team to team asking a series of questions such as: What challenges have you experienced so far; did anything unexpected happen; do you think a different tool might help; and what would happen if you changed just one thing. One guiding statement he made was, "Look around for something that might be useful to help with this challenge." Ryan also challenged the attendees to redesign or try another approach with the projects. Even lunch was set up to model a STEM program. The lunch table included a box of foil, some bread and lunch meat in packages, unopened bags of tomatoes and avocados, a package of grated cheese, and a blow torch. When someone asked if there was a knife to use for slicing, Ryan suggested looking around for something useful to help with the challenge. The foil doubled as a plate and a heat shield. The handle of a spoon was used to scoop then spread ingredients from a jar. The blow torch was used to toast the bread and

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melt the cheese. During the workshop, attendees built ramps, deconstructed toys, designed machines with snap circuits, made robot hands from recycled materials, and learned some computer programming basics. Everyone left with a renewed understanding of how STEM programs spark intellectual curiosity and encourage creativity.

SUMMER READING CLUB: Monday, June 15 was the official start date of the Library's Read to the Rhythm Summer Reading Club. This year, the Library is partnering with the California Library Association challenge to achieve one million sign-ups for summer reading clubs held all over the state. Monrovia has pledged 2,000 participants and the community is well on the way to achieving that goal. #onemillionreaders

Adult Programs: Wednesday, June 24, 2015, the Library hosted the Foods That Heal program. Monrovia business owner Christopher Tucker talked about the healing powers of foods and the importance of buying organic food and ingredients when possible. He provided food samples that included raw key lime pie, guacamole, healthy bean chili, and healthy snacks. The foods he talked about may help with diabetes, high blood pressure, and asthma. The 24 attendees enjoyed delicious samples and Christopher's presentation.

Family Programs: The first two sessions of Yarn Bombing were successful. Adults and children gathered together to make pompoms, yarn covered balloons, and learned arm knitting and finger crocheting. Everyone is working towards "bombing" Library Park with a variety of colorful hand-made creations. Mark Twain will soon be wearing a hat, booties, and a scarf and more will be revealed as the session's progress.

Youth Programs: Saturday, July 11, 2015, Staff hosted a Kid's Drive-In Movie Theatre. Children came to the Body Shop, Library Story Room, where they picked up supplies that included a box, paper, scissors, glue, a Monrovia Public Library license plate and other supplies. Once their dream cars were designed, they went to the Tire Center to have their tires and headlights glued on by Volunteers. When their cars were completed, participants zoomed over to the Drive-In Theatre, Library Community Room, where they sat in their cars to watch short films. Volunteers delivered a shoe box of snacks to each driver to complete the drive-in experience. The program totaled 227 in attendance and used 100 boxes that were donated by a Monrovia family. The program combined engineering and fun for school aged children and their families.