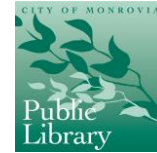




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Public Services,
Library Division

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2016

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Elder,
Adult and Literacy Services Supervisor
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AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES AND YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Literacy Services: The Monrovia Public Library Foundation's 2015 Team Up! Dream Up! Fundraiser, *Community Feud* was held on Sunday, November 8th from 1-3 pm and raised over \$32,000. A host of volunteers, sponsors, community members, and City representatives turned out in support of the event. Teams of co-workers, friends, and family members faced off to guess the correct answer to questions posed to area Monrovia residents. The winning team was the Monrovia Unified School District. The Library's Teen Advisory Board members eloquently shared the impact of the Library's literacy programs for all ages. Food, fun, a sense of community, and spirited competition were highlights of the event.

Monrovia Public Library was selected as one of only 20 libraries in California to participate in an online pilot tutor training program through California State Library Literacy Services. The program is developed by the Florida Literacy Coalition and was re-branded specifically for California. Library staff, two tutors, and one technology volunteer attended two online program overview sessions in December and are currently enrolled in the online course. The idea is to provide potential tutors with an online training component. Once the course has been completed and assessed, the goal is to offer the online training as a part of the Literacy program.

Adult Services: The Monrovia Public Library created a banner and display to honor active duty and retired service members during the month of November. The Banner of Honor was created for veterans to sign and share their service history and will be put on permanent display in the Library's Veteran's Resource Center in 2016.

The Monrovia Public Library hosted a *History of Tamales* on December 9 to a happy and hungry audience. Sandra Romero-- "Mama", as she is affectionately known, brought delicious samples of tamales for everyone to enjoy along with providing the history of tamales. Sandra demonstrated how to make tamales and shared the ingredients and special techniques of the art of tamale making. Ms. Romero was instrumental in bringing the MacArthur Park neighborhood together by providing a community kitchen for aspiring food vendors, which changed the neighborhood and reduced crime. Over 45 attendees heard her inspiring story. A documentary of "Mama" which can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9bhD6pUcgE>.

The 5th annual *Holiday Sounds* program was held on Saturday, December 12. This year's program featured three different performers. First, a father/son duo who played classical guitar; second, two student harpists whose instructor is a Monrovia resident; and third, the Cal State Northridge Sterling Flute Choir, made up of over 20 members playing different types of flutes. The program was held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Library for hundreds of guests of all ages to enjoy.

During the month of December, Library Staff created an interactive holiday book display and in addition to selecting books, visitors were asked "Who or what lights up your life?" Patrons of all ages were invited to post a star with the name or names of a person, place, or thing onto the display. Close to 200 people posted to the wall, which resulted in a beautiful starry sky and inspirational reading.

Youth Services: The Library hosted a walk-in Poetry Picnic in the Youth Services area for grades 1 to 5 on Saturday, November 21 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Each table was decorated like a picnic table and focused on a type of poetry. With picnic baskets full of books, this interactive program celebrated the rhythm of words with simple rhyming games for the very young and learning about Haiku for children who enjoyed a challenge while learning about syllables. We honored fall and Thanksgiving by weaving Poetry Placemats together and writing poems of thanks. Artistic children tried a hand at creating shape poetry and others served up simple sandwiches on paper plates. Approximately 50 were in attendance for a taste of poetry while picnicking inside the Library.

On Tuesday, December 1 at 10:30 a.m. and on Wednesday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. the Library hosted a very special Storytime with a much anticipated Special Guest. A grand total of 524 patrons visited the library to see Santa Claus. Participants enjoyed a short film based on a well-loved holiday book, listened to stories and sung songs as we welcomed our Jolly Friend into the Library's Community Room. Santa read a story and took a photo with each child. Refreshments were served, paper stockings were decorated and every child in attendance received a free book to take home. The program was sponsored by Friends of the Monrovia Public Library.

The Gingerbread House program was held at the Library on Saturday, December 19. A total of 210 people showed up ready to make their own masterpieces of gingerbread, and it was great fun watching all of the creative families work together to build their dream homes out of graham crackers, frosting, and candy! The final results of the program were certainly delicious!

Book Buddies is a month long literacy program for Kindergarteners and First Graders to get excited about reading, choosing books, and practicing finding information in the library. Kids meet every Wednesday at 3:45 p.m. to enjoy books, games and art projects. If they attend three days, they receive a free book at the end of the program series.

Families were invited on Saturday, January 9 to the Wildlife Wendy's Tropical Birds show. Wildlife Wendy and her tropical birds provided an up-close and personal encounter with the most entertaining species of the bird world. The show was fast-paced, fun, and included onstage guests from the audience.

Teen Services: The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) planned a holiday extravaganza, complete with a White Elephant gift exchange and movie night on Friday, December 11. The Teens voted to watch *Elf* and eat spaghetti with poptarts, skittles, cookies and maple syrup. Those who were less adventurous had spaghetti with marinara sauce. Teens also enjoyed hot chocolate and oranges while decorating the room with paper snowflakes. Twenty-five teens participated in the event. On Friday, January 8, TAB watched "Ant-Man" and ate picnic food.

Librarians visited Santa Fe and Clifton Middle Schools in December and January, speaking to every middle schooler in their English class. Teens heard about new books to read for the winter break, fun

programs to attend at the library and were encouraged to join TAB and volunteer to create programs and services for them and their friends. By the end of the visits, librarians will have spoken to about 1440 Monrovia teens.

Staff attended the Young Adult Services Symposium in Portland, Oregon on November 6-8, 2015. Programs focused on providing services for and with teens, including programming and maintaining teen library collections. Highlights included - a young adult speaker who presented on bullying, empowering bystanders and victims to stand up and make adults aware, and for adults to enforce a zero tolerance policy; A teen parent workshop on best practices of how to reach them as teens while supporting them as parents; New Adult literature as an emerging publishing trend featuring protagonists aged 18-25. The workshop focused on improving collections and programming to attract this age group to find value in the Library; a session on developing Learning Spaces in the library which include programming that allows access to hobbies that involve 'making'. The goal is to expose communities to new technologies, create new ways for the public to envision the role of the Library in the community and generate opportunities to work on design thinking and critical thinking skills; and finally a workshop titled "We Need Diverse Books" about promoting books with diverse characters, including access to 'mirror books' – stories that reflect their experiences, and 'window books' – book that help readers to learn about another culture. More information on this grassroots organization and lists of diverse books can be found at diversebooks.org.

Monrovia Public Library received the 'Great Stories Club' book club programming grant for at-risk teens. The Library has been selected to receive a competitive grant from the American Library Association (ALA) to host a reading and discussion program designed for at-risk teens. As one of the 50 *Great Stories Club* grant recipients selected from across the country, Monrovia Public Library will work with groups of 6 to 10 teens from Canyon Oaks High School to read and discuss modern novels. The Great Stories Club partnership will begin in January 2016 and go until April 2016.

Participants will read three titles under the theme "Hack the Feed: Media, Resistance, Revolution": "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins, "Feed" by M.T. Anderson and "March: Book One" by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin and Nate Powell. The titles — selected by librarian advisors and humanities scholars — were chosen to resonate with reluctant readers who struggle with complex issues such as incarceration, violence and poverty.

Monrovia Public Library will also receive 11 copies of each of the three book selections, paid travel and accommodations for library project directors to attend the orientation workshop in Chicago on November 16, and project materials, training and support.

Since its inception in 2006, ALA's "Great Stories Club" has reached 670 libraries in 49 states and more than 30,000 young adults (ages 12 to 21). The grant is administered by the ALA's Public Programs Office in partnership with the Association for Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), including the Library Services for Youth in and Library Services to the Incarcerated and Detained interest groups. The *Great Stories Club* is made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Celebrating 50 Years of Excellence.