



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services,
Library Division

MEETING DATE: Oct. 27, 2022

PREPARED BY: Carey Vance,
Library Manager
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AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Literacy Services

In September, a total of 40 Learners and Tutors participated in six programs. Culture & Conversation and Book Club continue with hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) meetings. Staff attended the 2021-2022 CLLS Final Report Information Session where staff was informed about changes and general components of the grant report.

Veterans Services

During the month of September, the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) served a total of 92 veterans. The County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) supported 15; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 29; and VRC staff 48. In September, staff attended a webinar on work-life balance for veterans hosted by local and statewide veterans' organizations. As well as a webinar hosted by *VolunteerMatch* on building effective relationships with volunteers.

Novel T's Book Club

On September 27, Adult Services staff hosted the hybrid (in person and virtual) Novel T's Book Club. A total of 14 members (10 in-person, 4 virtual) participated in the monthly group discussion of *Girl with the Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier.

Tech Lessons

Every Wednesday in September the non-profit, *Teens Teach Technology* (TTT), taught a series of technology lessons to older adults. Four lessons were taught covering the following topics: scam emails, protecting passwords, Gmail, and family communication platforms. A total of 12 adults attended throughout the series.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Storytime in the Park

On Wednesdays at 10am, families gathered on blankets and chairs in Library Park to hear stories, sing songs, dance, and move, enjoy sensory activities, and make a craft. Themes highlighted were food, summer, art, and community helpers. During the art themed storytime, families gathered to create chalk art on the concrete apron behind the library. These Storytimes are geared to help young children with language skills, use their imagination, develop social skills, and expand their world by hearing about a

variety of cultures, people, and experiences. A total of 277 children and their parents or caregivers attended storytimes.

Baby Storytime

Baby Storytime, for families with young children aged 0-2 returned in the month of September. Manipulatives, like egg shakers and beanbags, continue to be popular and assist in the development of the fine and gross motor skills of the children participating in the program. Staff continue to profess the benefits of talking, reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds while also offering a myriad of moments to talk, read, sing, write and play at the storytimes. A total of 222 children and their parents or caregivers attended storytimes.

Traveling Storytime with the Park Naturalists

On Saturday September 10, we once again collaborated with the Parks and Recreation side of Community Services, to present a very special storytime at the library. The 50+ attendees enjoyed the stories, songs and rhymes we shared, along with an entertaining and informative presentation by Mark and Rose about animal senses. To cap off the event, participants made lizard crafts and were able to hang around the library before it opened. One of the highlights of the event had to be the beetles that Mark and Rose shared with the attendees. We will be collaborating with the Park Naturalists for more Traveling Storytimes in the coming months. We relish the opportunity to enhance experiences, access and partnerships within our community while showcasing the beautiful parks around Monrovia. A total of 55 children and their parents or caregivers attended traveling storytime.

Craft-tastic Saturdays

On Saturday, September 3, families visited the library for a new monthly drop-in program that encourages children to use their imagination and creativity while making art with a variety of supplies. A total of 67 children and their parents or caregivers attended craft time.

Bark and Books

Staff collaborated with *Love on a Leash* to have a furry friend stop by for an hour on Tuesday, September 20. Children were able to enjoy 10 minutes reading to a certified therapy dog. This new monthly program offers additional support for young struggling readers, providing them with a low-stress environment to build their reading skills. A total of six children attended the event.

Ukulele Lessons

During the month of September, three free ukulele lessons were offered to young patrons on Wednesdays 9/14, 9/21, and 9/28. In partnership with Max Lee Music in Monrovia, school-aged children were able to register for an introductory lesson that taught the parts of the instrument, beginning chords, and two songs. Each day offered new registrants the chance to sign up and learn. Since the library offers patrons the opportunity to check out a ukulele from the collection, extending an educational introductory lesson is a valuable service, which enhances the patron's musical experience. Registration was limited to allow for a more intimate and personal hands-on tutorial. A total of 56 children attended the classes.

Innovation Lab

On the afternoon of September 7, the *Innovation Lab* program drew in children between the ages of 6 and 11. Attendees learned about electric current using LittleBits and Squishy Circuits, two different electronics learning kits. The children used the applicable instruction booklet to understand how the different hardware works. They were then encouraged to experiment with different builds and to think in a divergent manner. The participants were able to complete a number of projects varying from simple, including noisemakers and snakes made of dough, to complicated, two and four-wheeled vehicles. A total of 18 children and their parents or caregivers attended the event.

Hispanic Heritage Month Event

Families gathered on Saturday, September 17 in Library Park to celebrate *Hispanic Heritage Month*. Staff read bilingual stories, provided crafts and patrons were treated to live music. Patrons made Frida Kahlo inspired headbands and mini piñatas. Mariachi Herencia Michoacana and Ballet Folklórico de Monarca entertained families in the park. It was a fantastic turnout and great event to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month. A total of 160 library patrons attended the event.

Outreach

On Thursday, September 29, kindergarten students from Pearl Prep Academy visited the library for a storytime and a tour. Students received library cards and were able to check out books. A total of 25 students visited the library.

The Monrovia Reads Van returned to schools in September, visiting all of the elementary schools in the district. Visits to the middle schools, high schools, and Canyon Early Learning Center will resume in October. The Monrovia Reads Van provides access to library materials and resources across the community. Over 800 children and their parents or caregivers visited the van during September.

Teen Programming

The September Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on September 12 in the library and was led by the TAB officer board. A total of 41 TAB members attended the meeting. During the meeting, TAB members received updates on volunteering in September. They signed up to help at the Library's *Hispanic Heritage Event* and *Craft-tastic*, a children's craft program on the first Saturday of the month. TAB members also continued volunteering on Tuesday afternoons to help Ms. Annette prepare crafts and activities for her Storytime and Craft programs.

Ten teens attended the *Back to School Board Game Hangout* on September 19. This program gave teens the opportunity to develop communication skills, critical thinking, and social skills. They played games like Clue, Uno, and more. The teens that attended had a great time getting to know each other and said that they hope we have another game night soon.

The first TAB orientation for new members was held on September 22 at 4pm, eight new TAB members were given an overview of the program and then a tour of the Library where they were able to meet Library staff and see where they will be volunteering. Orientations are going to be held quarterly, with the next orientation happening in December.