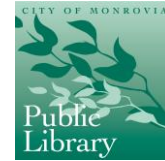




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Public Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: March 23, 2017

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Elder,
Adult and Literacy Services Supervisor
Elizabeth Schneider,
Youth Services Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

On Saturday, February 18, the library hosted a *Volunteer Recognition Lunch* for library volunteers. Volunteers were recognized for their many contributions to the library, enjoyed lunch and socialized. The event showcased the diverse roles and skills among fellow volunteers and demonstrated how their efforts impact the library and the community.

On Tuesday, February 21, local Finance Coaches Dana Sacdalan and Miriam Villanueva-Childers discussed saving for retirement in the third workshop of the *Financial Literacy* series. Participants received a free copy of personal money management expert, Dave Ramsey's book donated by the presenters.

On Thursday, February 23, James Curtis, Peer Partner from *Pacific Clinics Outpatient* Program brought a group of 5 adults for a library tour to learn about the library's resources. Staff demonstrated how to access and use the library's online resources and provided program information to the group. Outreach to local mental health organizations builds partnerships within the community and supports underserved populations.

The MPL Foundation's annual *Team Up! Dream Up! for Literacy* fundraiser was held on Sunday, February 26. Over 95 enthusiastic participants attended and 12 teams played the *Community Feud* challenge. The Public Services Team was the winner beating out the two-time reigning champions, the Monrovia Unified School District. In addition to the game, the fundraiser included both live and silent auction and included a catered lunch. The fundraiser raises funds for literacy and the 2015/2017 revenue total comparison is below.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2015</u>
Gross Revenue	\$31,306.00	\$32,494.72
Expenses	\$ 7,829.06	\$ 9,444.72
Net Income	\$23,476.94	\$23,050.00

On Tuesday, February 27, the *Board Game Night at the Library* was held in the Story Room. Five participants played the featured game. Ladies and Gentlemen and enjoyed coffee, snacks and socialization. The monthly board games are a part of the *Adulting 101* series that focus on young adults in their 20's and 30's.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

The *Valentine's Day Pajama Storytime* was designed to broaden accessibility and provide families and caregivers an alternative to morning storytimes. Around 40 people attended the Valentine's Day edition of *Pajama Storytime*, and joined us in celebrating family, friendship, and love. Staff shared books, flannelboard stories, and songs, followed by bubbles and an art project. Many patrons who are not regular storytime attendees joined the evening storytime. Some regulars brought along other caregivers who do not normally attend morning events, giving the caregiver a chance to participate in their child's development.

Adults and children were invited to experience diversity in children's books and be inspired into service for their community. Staff invited Allison Grover Khoury, middle school librarian, to lead families in a social action workshop. She read a picture book about an artist beautifying a community with murals on buildings, a story about a man who built a farm in a city so people could have access to fresh fruits and vegetables, and a book about a classroom of students who worked together to insure the safe migration of turtles to the ocean. Before families left the program, they were asked to fill out a worksheet identifying needs in their community and ways to solve it together. Staff was able to expand the Library collection of titles on this topic, and created a display of inspirational projects and people.

Black History Month was further celebrated at the Library by a storytime and an author visit. Community members, Joannie and James Yuille, read a book called the *Youngest Marcher* to an audience of 18 people. Children were asked what they would stand up and protest for. They made signs and walked around the children's area protesting for people to have friends, to be kind to one another, and for everyone to have access to pumpkins. In the second hour of the presentation, Ron Husband, local Monrovia High School Alumni, spoke about being the first Black animator for Disney and his work as illustrator on the book *Steamboat School*. He enlightened 21 listeners to the story of African American children who were forbidden to go to school based on Missouri state law, so they attended school on a boat in the middle of the Mississippi River outside the boundary of the law. Children and adults were intrigued with his work and asked many questions about his successful path in animation. Both programs allowed access to culturally and historically significant information.

The second day of the *Science Adventures* program took place on February 23. In this program, more than 40 children of different ages participated in making quicksand and hatching dinosaur eggs, learning about the characteristics of solids and liquids and chemical reactions. These activities were especially designed to be accessible to even the youngest scientists. They were popular with kids as young as two and three years. These activities focused on the experience of exploring new things and being curious. Research shows that early science education is just as important to school readiness as early literacy. By providing the tools and guidance for children to engage in scientific inquiry, the library is playing an important role in preparing children for *STEM* subjects in school.

Crazy Kid Concoctions was an open house style program presenting six science stations with art supplies or experiments. Density was explored through salt water experimentation and floating items; force, gravity and engineering were represented in a rocket ship challenge; engineering and creativity were incorporated into candy and toothpick structures; sensory play and chemistry was explored through non-Newtonian fluids created from household items; the visible spectrum was explored through the creation of reflective devices that created rainbows. A total of 120 people participated in the program.

The final *Kids Kitchen* of Spring was held on February 16 with an attendance of 60 children and caregivers. On the menu were rainbow vegetable wraps and peanut butter cookie dough bites. Parents

appreciated the healthy choices presented to their children, the ability to customize the treats and the ease with which to replicate them at home. The children enjoyed choosing what ingredients to incorporate and eating their creations. They practiced fine and gross motor skills using kitchen utensils, collaborated with others at their work station and discovered how mixing ingredients can create different flavors.

Five families and caregivers participated in the *App-y Families workshop*. Families were introduced to the concepts of digital literacy such as media mentorship, joint family engagement and checklists for choosing developmentally appropriate apps. Families voiced their appreciation for this type of program and indicated what type of information they would like to receive in future programs. As a result, digital literacy tips and information will be shared regularly at normally scheduled storytimes.

In collaboration with *Snip-Its* Children's hair salon in Monrovia, the Library offered a *Rock Star Party*. Children tried on rock star costumes, had their hair styled by Snip-Its staff, and took photos in the photo booth. Around 70 children and adults had the opportunity to play act and be creative. The program attracted new patrons, and showcased the Library's role as a community connector and a place for families to try new things.

Geared for ages 4-8 year olds, children were given the opportunity to be transported to another world through imaginative play using toys, props and creative arts in the *Imagination Station* program series. This program is every Thursday for five weeks (March 2-30) and each day had a new theme: Playdough Bakery, Royal Kingdom, School House, Zoo Keeper, and Show Time! Staff read a book related to the theme, discuss vocabulary words, and encourage discussion among the participants about the topic. Pretending builds skills in many essential developmental areas: social and emotional skills, language skills, and cognitive skills. Participants are exposed to other learning opportunities such as sharing, problem-solving, empathy, cooperation, and storytelling.

In two weeks *Night Owl Storytime* doubled its inaugural attendance. Four families attended the first week while the second week had 10 families. This program incorporates traditional storytime elements such as songs, chants, and books with an engineering mentality. At the conclusion of circle time, the group goes over the concepts of THINK > MAKE > TRY. They discuss how this is a circular process taking place and reframe failure as an opportunity to try. Children are told a story, such as *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and given a challenge based on that story. Children develop empathy by understanding that little Bear would be sad to come home and see his chair has been broken, so the challenge is to engineer a chair for little Bear to enjoy upon his return. Parents and children enjoy creating their unique designs and sharing their ideas with each other. The evening storytime will continue through the months of March and April and then again in the summer.

TEEN SERVICES REPORT

Six teens participated in an eight-week *Readers Theatre* program where they learned acting techniques, to work collaboratively, to practice public speaking skills, to listen in an authentic context, and perform with a purpose. Through workshops and rehearsals, the students chose four multicultural stories to retell in Readers Theatre style. Props, sound effects, puppets and music were added to the performance for entertainment value. Two of the stories were told with shadow puppets and were projected onto the wall and artistically maneuvered by the teens. Since the theme of the performance was Stories From Around the World, the students wrote their own script entitled *Peace* where they shared what peace meant to them and how they see peace portrayed in the world. This program not only helped participants work on their reading and writing skills, but strengthened their confidence and improved their self-image. The performance of the Off the Page Players was on Saturday, February 25 with an attendance of 53. The

stories presented were: *The Teeny Tiny Woman* (England), *The Stonecutter* (Japan), *No Dinner* (India), *That's What Friends Are For* (Africa), and *Peace* (Original Tale).

On March 6, TAB held its monthly meeting and had 21 teens in attendance. These monthly meetings are essential in creating successful teen programs. For this month's TAB meeting, they voted for the movie they would like to watch for Movie Mania, discussed the upcoming TAB election, and signed up for volunteer opportunities in March. Attending TAB meetings and volunteering in the library makes teens direct stakeholders in their library and helps them develop leadership, collaboration, and project management skills.

On March 10, we had the *Teen Tech Fest* program. The purpose of this program was to encourage and foster an interest in technology. The teens have a chance to create two projects. One was a *Doodle-Bot* which was a motorized scribbling machine with marker legs, and the other was a *Shoebox Projector* that could be used with a smartphone and was made out of a shoebox and a magnifying glass. With *STEM* becoming ever more crucial, *Teen Tech Fest* will help teens gain experience with technology in an informal, safe setting.