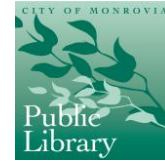




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: **Community Services,
Library Division**

MEETING DATE: Jan. 26, 2023

PREPARED BY: Carey Vance,
Library Manager
Ginger Antunez,
Youth Services Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-3

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Adult Programs

Staff collaborated with the Monrovia Music Academy to host a beginner ukulele class for 13 adults in October. This class provided an opportunity for the attendees to better understand the basics of a musical instrument as well as learn about the library's offering of non-traditional items like ukuleles that are available to community members.

The monthly Novel T's Book Club met in October to discuss *There is Nothing for You Here* by Fiona Hill with 15 in attendance. The group held their annual holiday potluck meeting in November with 15 members joining in the fun and discussing *A Rip in Heaven* by Jeannine Cummins.

In December, staff hosted the *Holiday Sounds Concert* for all ages in the Library Lobby for a total of 77 participants. Local musicians shared their holiday favorites, discussed some of the historical aspects of their pieces, and answered questions from the attendees about their instruments.

Literacy Services

In October, a total of 45 learners and tutors participated in six programs. In November, 39 learners and tutors participated in seven programs, while in December, 45 learners and tutors participated in six programs. Culture & Conversation and Book Club continue with hybrid (Zoom and in-person) meetings. In November, staff provided *the Nature Journaling* event with a park naturalist. Learners were encouraged to practice observation, writing, listening to a presentation on tree specimens, and encouraged to practice conversation skills as they asked the park naturalist questions regarding the flora in Library Park.

In December, staff provided Family Literacy Activity kits and books for families to read and engage in literacy skills together during the winter break. Staff also provided a Literacy Movie Night, where learners were encouraged to practice listening, speaking, and pronunciation skills as they viewed *Where the Crawdads Sing* in a group setting.

Veterans Services

During the month of October 2022, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 82 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 10; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 22; volunteer 8 hours and VRC staff 50. While in November 2022, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 118 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 15; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 20; volunteer 2 hours

and VRC staff 83. During the month of December 2022, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 82 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 10; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 27; volunteer two hours and VRC staff 45.

Staff and the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) attended the Veteran's Day Observation at Library Park, hosted by the Allied Veterans Council in November. The City of Monrovia created a *Field of Honor* by placing several American flags in Library Park. City staff handed out tags for those wishing to thank a veteran / first responder. Well-wishers were encouraged to write a message of appreciation and then tie it to a flag pole. Library staff partnered with Recreation staff to assist and inform veterans and their families of resources available to them through the City, speaking with 28 community members at the Veterans Day event.

Staff and the County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) provided outreach and support at an informational veteran's booth at the City's annual Thankful & Grateful Holiday Gathering in November at Library Park, providing support to 25 veterans and their families. In December, staff attended an outreach event hosted by the Veterans Peer Access Network (VPAN) at Pasadena City College as part of their *Veteran and Family Appreciation Day*. The Veteran's Resource Fair was for military veterans and their family members and attendees received information about benefits, employment, financial information, and other resources available to them.

In December, staff received 250 pairs of socks from The SOLEDIER SOCKS Team, a donation to support the Women's Auxiliary Unit #830's annual socks donation drive. The library often collaborates with the Women's Auxiliary to provide services and support to the community's veterans.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Baby Storytimes

The storytime series, *Baby Storytime*, for families with young children aged 0-2 continued on into the fall months of October and November. As always, staff continue to profess the benefits of talking, reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds, while also offering opportunities to talk, read, sing, write and play at library storytimes. A total of 462 caregivers and their children attended in October and November.

October Storytimes

Library Staff hosted storytime in Library Park. On Wednesdays, October 5, 12, and 19 where families gathered on blankets and chairs to hear stories, sing songs, dance, move, enjoy sensory activities, and make a craft. Themes highlighted were topics called: If..., Big and Little, and Friends. A total of 210 caregivers and their children attended

November Storytimes

Library Staff hosted storytime and were back inside the building most of the month. On Wednesdays, November 9, 16, 23, and 30 families gathered to hear stories, sing, and dance, practice movement, enjoy sensory activities, and make a craft. Some themes highlighted were Rain, Family, Thankfulness, and Farms. A total of 284 caregivers and their children attended.

Traveling Storytime with the Park Naturalists

On October 8 and November 12, the Library and Recreation staff collaborated once again to present very special storytimes at Station Square Park and Rotary Park. Program attendees were treated to stories, songs and rhymes, along with an entertaining and informative presentation by Park Naturalists Rose and Chynna about animal senses. To cap off the event, participants made crafts and were able to socialize with other attendees. One of the highlights of the events was the live animals the park naturalists shared with

the attendees. More Traveling Storytimes are being planned for the coming months. Staff enjoy the opportunity to enhance experiences, access and partnerships within the community while showcasing the beautiful parks around Monrovia.

Santa Storytime

During the holiday season, the library hosted Santa Storytime. This popular program invited participants to come inside for stories, songs, and fun. A special surprise for many was an in-person visit from Santa himself. He read a story and then joined families for a photo opp. Crafts were also provided and a treat was given at the end of the program. A total of 331 caregivers and their children attended the program.

LEGO Free Play

On Saturday October 22, the library hosted a Lego Free Play event. Children between the ages of one and 13 attended the program, along with a number of parents and caregivers. The children built a variety of creative items including a racecar, a crown “made of diamonds”, a hideout for Captain Turbot and a spaceship for flamingos. This program provides the children of Monrovia with an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, critical and creative thinking skills, improve concentration and focus, problem solve, develop spatial skills and boost self-confidence. A total of 42 attended the program.

Innovation Lab

The fall Innovation Lab programs, running from October to December, drew over 100 children between the ages of six and 11 to three unique programs. The program attendees learned about a variety of STEAM-related subject matters, including, robotics, coding, gravity, friction and engineering. Attendees built LEGO robots, marble runs and gingerbread houses at the different events. Staff will continue to offer an assortment of STEAM programming for school-aged children in the coming months. This supports the library’s strategic plan elements of enhanced experiences, access and technology for the people of Monrovia.

Craft-tastic (October-December)

Families gathered on the first Saturday of the month from October-December to enjoy making an array of designs for all ages. Library staff and Teen Advisory Board (TAB) volunteers offered Halloween crafts such as mummy dolls, jack-o-lanterns, and bats, fall crafts in November, and winter themed crafts in December. For younger children, this activity strengthened fine motor skills, allowed for the exploration of textures, shapes, and colors. Older children used critical thinking, resilience, and creativity to complete patterns that were more intricate. A total of 175 caregivers and their children attended the program.

Barks & Books (October-December)

In partnership with *Love on a Leash*, the library brought back this valuable program to encourage literacy and strengthen reading confidence. Many young children feel more comfortable reading aloud to a dog rather than to humans. With no judgement, no stress, and a positive experience, reading to a very special service animal helps young children interact and read while creating positive memories. Each participant received 10 minutes with the dog, which allowed for six participants during the program hour. A total of 24 caregivers and their children attended the programs.

Art Time

Library Staff collaborated with local Monrovia Art Time Studio to bring the art programming that blends the techniques of the Great Masters with the latest in multi-media technology. Students, as young as seven attended the event on Monday, October 17. Registration was required and a total of 20 children participated in the program.

Family Focus Parenting Workshops

This series of classes were for parents and caregivers and held on Mondays, November 7, 14, and 21. In partnership with Foothill Family, a representative from the organization came each evening. While children were nearby playing, families learned about Early Head Start, Early ESTEEM, and Investing in Relationship Success. Each program provided participants with valuable information to help improve the social and emotional well-being of infants, children and families. Each class empowered parents, shared information about comprehensive services, discussed health and nutrition, mental health, and gave support. At the end of each class, the families gathered to make a craft related to the weekly lesson. In total, there were 68 in attendance.

In-House Visits

Two school visits were held in the library during the month of November. On November 4, Tzu Chi Preschool visited with 85 in attendance for a storytime. On November 18, Bradoaks 85 students from their 3rd grade class for a lesson on the history of Monrovia, the library, and the park.

Santa Letters

In December, the library provided a letter writing station for children to write to Santa Claus. This allowed children the opportunity to practice writing as well as improve their communication, social and handwriting skills. With the help of library staff, children received a personal reply from old St. Nick. Total number of letters submitted by patrons was 224.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on October 3 and was led by the TAB officer board. A total of 40 TAB members attended the meeting. During the meeting, members received updates on volunteering in October. They signed up to help at the Library's monthly Saturday craft program, Innovation Lab, and Bilingual Storytime. They continued to help staff prepare crafts for storytimes. On Halloween, they helped with the Spooktacular Stories Event and passed out fresh popcorn to children.

TAB members also helped at the Monrovia Association of Fine Arts' Art in the Park Event on October 1, and Make a Difference Day on October 22. During the Make a Difference Day event, the teens partnered with Amigos de los Rios to help clean up the native plant garden at Santa Fe Middle School.

Fifteen teens signed up for Teens Create: Halloween Terrariums on Wednesday, October 26. Teens made spooky terrariums using moss, 3D printed figurines, and pipe cleaners. This program gave teens the opportunity to develop creative, social, and critical thinking skills.

On November 7, the TAB meeting had a total of 42 TAB members in attendance. During the meeting TAB members received updates on volunteering in November. They signed up to help at the library's monthly Saturday craft program, Innovation Lab, and a Nature Journaling program. The teens also helped at the City's Thankful and Grateful event. They hosted their own booth with Santa Letter Writing and a turkey craft. They also helped with the International Children's Day craft station.

In December, the TAB meeting took place on December 5 and was led by the TAB officer board. A total 31 TAB members attended the meeting. During the meeting TAB members received updates on volunteering in December. They signed up to help at the library's monthly Saturday craft program, and Santa Storytimes.

After the TAB meeting, a Holiday Party was held to celebrate the TAB volunteers. Volunteers enjoyed hot cocoa, cookies, and played board games and Mario Kart. They had a chance to relax and socialize while celebrating their accomplishments in 2022.