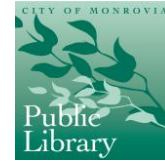




**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services,  
Library Division

**MEETING DATE:** March. 23, 2023

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

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

## **ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

### ***Adult Programs***

On February 13 and 27, staff partnered with Max Lee Music to offer beginning guitar lessons for adults. The instructor showed the four participants that braved the rain storm basic cords and how to play simple songs. Programs like these support the library's strategic plan goal of "active mind, active body" that encourages lifelong learning for all ages.

The monthly Novel T's Book Group met on February 28 to discuss *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides. The 16 participants had a lively discussion and shared their thoughts on the book as well as enjoying light refreshments during the meeting. The group likes to have a variety of fiction and nonfiction books to read throughout the year and will be discussing *Equal Partner: Improving Gender Equality At Home* by Kate Mangino in March.

### ***Literacy Services***

In February a total of 75 Learners and Tutors participated in 10 programs. Culture & Conversation and Book Club continue with hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) meetings. Write Club has resumed as an in-person, biweekly program. Staff provided a two-part tutor training workshop on February 14 and 21 facilitated by Brianne Ellsworth, creative writing specialist. This workshop helped tutors to support their learner's unique goals, to learn creative approaches to enhance verbal communication, and improve goal setting that tutors can implement right away. Staff attended Library Juice Academy's "Learning to Apply Theories of Adult Learning: A Practical Course on Andragogy and Heutagogy", where staff learned practical strategies for leading instruction for adults.

### ***Veterans Services***

During the month of February, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 103 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 15; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 27; and VRC staff 61. Staff is busy planning the upcoming Veterans *Thank You Dinner* event on May 3 and the Veterans Resource Fair in June.

## **YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

### ***Storytimes***

Library staff continued to host Wednesday storytimes for the month of February. Families gathered to hear stories, sing and dance, practice movement, enjoy sensory activities and make a craft. The themes highlighted included dinosaurs, valentines, music and weather. A total of 275 children and their caregivers attended.

Baby Storytime, for families with young children aged 0-2 took place every Tuesday in February. Storytimes have been held indoors due to cold and wet weather. Caregivers and children share songs, rhymes, stories and activities together. The library continues to be steadfast in its devotion to the benefits of talking, reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds. A total of 260 children and their caregivers attended.

On Saturday, February 11, library staff collaborated with Parks and Recreation staff to present very special storytime at the library. Program attendees were treated to stories, songs and rhymes shared together, along with an entertaining and informative presentation about animal senses. To cap off the event participants made crafts and socialized with other attendees. Library staff continue to value the opportunity to enhance experiences, access, and partnerships within the community. A total of 80 children and their caregivers attended.

On Saturday, February 18, the library hosted bilingual storytime. The children enjoyed songs, rhymes and stories in English and Spanish. The theme for this month was animals and children learned the names of animals on a farm in Spanish. A total of 25 children and their caregivers attended.

### ***Programs***

#### ***Space Exploration***

In collaboration with the Monrovia High School and the Sidewalk Astronomers of Monrovia, the library offered patrons the chance to learn more about planets and space. With interactive learning centers, participants of all ages were able to create a Comet on a Stick, make a Mars Helicopter, better understand the distance between the sun and planets, and develop an understanding of how to use a tabletop telescope, make UV bracelets, and even learn about gravity. They could even see the moon and some planets through large telescopes set up outside. A total of 129 children and their caregivers attended.

#### ***Barks & Books***

In partnership with Love on a Leash and Therapy Dogs International, the library encourages literacy and strengthened reading confidence with the Barks and Books program. Young children find it much easier to read aloud to a dog in a comforting environment. 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 12 children attended the two programs in February.

#### ***Craft-tastic***

This creative program gives school-aged children a chance to make and take home projects they make from their imaginations. As families gather, they have access to an array of materials. Valentine cards and crafts were the topic this month. A total of 80 children and their caregivers attended.

### *Bee Mine*

The Library worked with The Los Angeles Bee Keepers Association for this hands-on program. Learning tables were set up throughout the room and those in attendance were able to taste different types of honey based on pollination sources, learn about bee safety, better understand bee anatomy, pollination, types of bees, jobs of bees, and view an Observation Hive up close to see bees at work. A total of 148 children and their caregivers attended.

### *Max Lee Art*

This program was a three-day series on Mondays, 1/30, 2/6, and 3/13. Each pre-registered class hosted a new art activity like painting and felt work. With two instructors, students were able to strengthen skills like creativity, fine motor skills, problem solving abilities, and socialization. A total of 45 children and their caregivers attended.

### *Imagination Station*

Children between the ages of 4 years and 2nd grade gathered on February 9 and 23, to listen to a story on a particular topic. Young children participated in activities and discussion to help stretch minds and loosen inhibitions. Thirty minutes of unstructured imaginative play allowed participants to engage with each other using the toys and props provided. Participants were challenged to strengthen their thinking skills when they problem-solved, imagined, focused, analyzed, and evaluated. As children imitated, read, wrote, listened, and communicated, this supported their language skills. Social and emotional skills improved when staff encouraged sharing, cooperation, self-esteem, community support, and empathy. Each week the children engaged in a new experience with themes such as Playdoh Bakery, Zoo, Emergency, and Talent Show. One of the inspiring highlights of the program was when the library invited the city's Police Department to come and read a book, as well as describe their job to the children. A total of 160 children and their caregivers attended.

### *Innovation Lab*

The library's Innovation Lab programs continued into February. The two programs drew 43 children between the ages of 6 and 11, and their families. The program attendees learned about a variety of STEAM-related subject matter, including architectural design and engineering. The library will continue to offer an assortment of STEAM programming for school-aged children for the near future to ensure enhanced experiences, access, and technology for the people of Monrovia.

### *Innovation Lab on the Go!*

Library staff went to Station Square Park for a special STEAM program. Children made LED Valentine's Day cards and learned how electricity works. Children had a great time designing cards and choosing from a variety of LED colors for their cards. A total of 25 children and caregivers attended.

### *LEGO Free Play*

On Saturday, February 25, the library hosted a Lego Free Play event. There were children between the ages of one and thirteen who participated in the program, as well as a number of parents and caregivers. The children built all sorts of things in the program. Importantly, this program is providing the children and families of Monrovia with an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, critically and creatively think, improve concentration and focus, problem solve, develop spatial skills and boost self-confidence. The program offers an opportunity for attendees to engage and bond with their families and other members of the community. A total of 85 children and caregivers attended.

### *Black History Month*

The Monrovia-Duarte Black Alumni Association returned to collaborate with the Monrovia Library for this annual event on Saturday, February 18. This year's theme was Black Resistance. The attendees were treated to a musical performance by Mr. Marcus the Music Man, Readers Theatre, and craft activities. Hart

House, a new local food establishment, attended and gave out free food rewards and prizes. The Readers Theatre presentation, narrated by a Teen Advisory middle school student, highlighted the award-winning book, *The Undefeated* by Kwame Alexander. Crafts made were peace bracelets and weaving wall panels. During the month of February, the library posted four specially chosen picture books and made them into virtual storytime videos for the library's YouTube channel. A total of 80 people were in attendance at the event on February 18 and the virtual storytimes received a total of 381 views.

#### *Class Visits and Outreach*

Library staff hosted a class visit for 30 TK students from Mayflower Elementary on February 10. Students were treated to stories and songs as well as a tour of the library. Library staff visited 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Bradoaks and spoke about Teen Advisory Board (TAB) and library services for a total of 50 children. Numerous library staff also participated in the special Black History Month visits organized by the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association at Monrovia elementary schools in February. Staff shared stories and biographies that celebrated African-American culture and history with students from TK to 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### **Teen Advisory Board (TAB)**

The February TAB meeting took place on February 6 in the Library Community Room and was led by the TAB officer board. During the meeting, TAB members received updates on volunteering in February and went over some event planning updates for summer. The teens signed up to help at the library's Saturday Craft Program, Innovation Lab, Imagination Station, Bee Mine, the Black History Month Celebration, set up for the Black History Month Art Show and more. A total of 28 TAB members attended the meeting.

In February, staff held a Teens Create program. The craft for this event was creating art from string and liquid watercolors. The teens who attended created and took home many paintings that they can hang as art or repurpose for greeting cards or gifts. This art program gave the teens a chance to think creatively and socialize with others. A total of 10 teens attended this program.