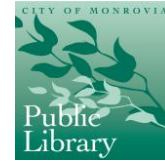




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services,
Library Division

MEETING DATE: April 27, 2023

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Adult Programs

Novel T's Book Club met on March 28 to discuss *Equal Partner: Improving Gender Equality At Home* by Kate Mangino. A total of 14 participated, 9 in-person and 5 via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *Slouching Towards Bethlehem* by Joan Didion.

On March 4 and March 11, Adult Services staff partnered with Monrovia Music Academy to offer more Beginner Ukulele Lessons for Adults using the libraries own collection of ukuleles. The first session had 11 participants and the second session had 10 participants. At least 3 participants enjoyed the first session so much they returned for the second session. The program discussed instrument tuning, basic cords, and culminated in playing simplified versions of the songs, *You are My Sunshine*, Joan Jet's *I Love Rock n Roll*, and The Beatles' *Twist and Shout*.

On March 10, staff hosted the first of the library's new monthly *Dungeons & Dragons* programs for adults. Four players enjoyed an evening of learning the basics of the popular, fantasy role-playing game before getting started. The participants enjoyed the time to talk and strategize, with many inviting their friends to join them at the recent April program.

On March 18, staff hosted an adult program focused on social connection thorough video games and had 7 in attendance. While enjoying the Nintendo Switch and board game offerings, patrons were able to connect almost immediately with one another over common interests and hobbies. At the end of the event, conversation centered on the next gaming programs. The group was made aware of the two additional programs available in spring on April 28 and May 15. Before leaving, individuals asked to be e-mailed reminders for the upcoming events with great enthusiasm.

Literacy Services

In March, a total of 60 Learners and Tutors participated in 11 programs. Culture & Conversation continues with weekly hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) meetings. Book Club and Write Club continue as an in-person, biweekly program. Staff and tutors facilitated the quarterly Learner Movie Night on March 6 for 4 participants to support literacy goals of conversation, pronunciation, and idiomatic expressions.

CC-2

Family Literacy Storyteller Event

The Adult Literacy Program staff partnered with Youth Services staff to host a multicultural storytelling event. In partnership with the Music Center's *We Tell Stories*, this performing trio explored the concept of pride by telling three stories from three different cultures. This performance took place at the Rotary Bandshell in Library Park. Along with the storytelling, the library gave away free books to each child in attendance, provided games, and crafts for families to enjoy. To focus on literacy and storytelling elements of the event, children of all ages were invited to decorate their own bookmarks and create their own story books. A total of 65 children and their caregivers attended.

Veterans Services

During the month of March, the Veterans Resource Center served a total of 82 veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 10; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 19; and VRC staff 53. This month, staff attended two workshops that focused on engaging and supporting volunteers. Staff also attended a veteran outreach event, the VA-HUD Stand Out Event, at the greater El Monte VFW Post on March 28.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Innovation Lab on the Go @ Station Square Park

On March 25, an off-site version of Innovation Lab was hosted at Station Square Park. Children and their parents explored STEAM concepts while building wind-powered cars. Two types of cars were available to construct straw and balloon cars or cardboard and paper sail cars. Children were given the opportunity to make both vehicles and test them against each other to see which moves faster. Attendees decorated cardboard cars and experimented with its construction to move the built vehicle. Parents assisted their children coming up with ideas on how to make cars move faster with the incorporation of multiple straws or balloons. A total of 26 children and their caregivers attended.

Innovation Lab

Innovation Lab programs continued into March. Staff held two different programs in March that drew an assortment of children between the ages of 6 and 11, and their families. The program attendees learned about a variety of STEAM-related subject matter, including circuits, physics and engineering. Staff will continue to offer an assortment of STEAM programming for school-aged children for the foreseeable future to ensure the library is providing enhanced experiences, access and technology for the people of Monrovia. A total of 35 children and their caregivers attended.

Storytime

Baby Storytime, for families with young children aged 0-2, continues to be a hit. Staff share songs, rhymes, stories and activities together. The Youth Services team shares the benefits of talking, reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds and the weekly series offers little ones a chance to build their early literacy skills. Families with children aged 3-5, enjoy the weekly Wednesday storytimes and gather to hear stories, sing, and dance, practice movement, enjoy sensory activities, and make a craft. A total of 527 children and their caregivers attended storytimes in March.

Storytime with the Park Naturalists

On Saturday, March 11, the Library Staff once again collaborated with Recreation Staff to present another very special storytime at the library. The program attendees were treated to stories, songs and rhymes shared together along with an entertaining and informative presentation by Park Naturalist, Chynna about animal senses. To cap off the event participants made crafts and were able to socialize with other

attendees. Staff continue to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance experiences, access and partnerships within the community. A total of 58 children and their caregivers attended.

Bilingual Storytime:

On Saturday, March 18, children and parents learned colors, animals and days of the week while stories and songs were shared in both English and Spanish at the monthly bilingual storytime event. A total of 25 children and their caregivers attended.

Sensory Playtime

March saw the introduction of a new program designed specifically for children with sensory processing disorders and Autism Spectrum Disorder, offering them the space and tools to explore, play, and make new friends in a welcoming, accepting, and celebratory atmosphere. Based on participant need and research-based strategies, specialized verbal and pictorial signage directed attendees to different play zones, each featuring different sensory toys and books with a focus on engineering and physics concepts. Children practiced their experimentation and collaboration skills as they chose what and how they wanted to play with the toys. Parents and guardians expressed their gratitude at having a specialized time just for their children, as well as the opportunity to connect with each other. Pre-registration for the event was encouraged, as attendance was limited for comfort and safety, though walk-ups were welcomed as space allowed. A total of 12 children and their caregivers attended.

LEGO Free Play

On Saturday, March 25, the library hosted a Lego Free Play event for children between the ages of one and 13 and their families. The children built all sorts of different creations at the program. Importantly, this monthly program is providing the children 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. A total of 47 children and their caregivers attended.

Barks & Books

In partnership with Love on a Leash and Therapy Dogs International, the library encourages literacy and strengthens reading confidence with this twice monthly Barks and Books program. 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 participated.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

The March TAB meeting took place on March 6 in the library Community Room and was led by the TAB officer board. During the meeting, TAB members received updates on volunteering in March and went over some event planning updates for summer. The teens signed up to help at the library's Saturday Craft Program, Innovation Lab, and Lego Free Play. The board hosted a guest speaker, Ms. Annette, after the regular meeting who shared information about library and community history and hosted a fun trivia game. A total of 28 TAB members attended the meeting.

On March 25, staff held another Teens Create program. The craft for this event was Sun Printing, where teens got to decorate tote bags or zipper pouches. Teen learned how to use UV sensitive dyes and objects like leaves, dye cuts, and other household items to create beautiful prints using only sunlight. Participants got hands-on experience with the process as they laid out their designs and watched them develop in real time. What made the program even more enjoyable was that it allowed the teens to express their creativity while engaging in science concepts in a fun way. Overall, everyone had a great time learning new skills and leaving with one-of-a-kind art pieces that they could be proud of. A total of five TAB members attended this program.