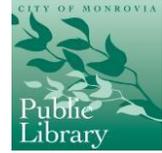




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services
Library Division

MEETING DATE: June 22, 2023

PREPARED BY: Ginger Antunez,
Youth Services Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: AR-1

TITLE: Monrovia Reads Mobile Literacy Program Annual Report FY2022/2023

OBJECTIVE: To provide the Library Board with the annual report of the Monrovia Reads Mobile Literacy Program

BACKGROUND: In March 2018, local nonprofit, Monrovia Reads partnered with the Monrovia Public Library Foundation and library staff to provide a mobile literacy van that was dedicated to serving children and families throughout the city. Since its launch, the van has been visiting the five local elementary schools after school. At the start of the 19/20 school year the van began visiting the local preschool, middle, and high schools. The van now provides books to the district's 5,500 students. It also attends community events, including MAP events, the annual Spring Egg Hunt, and other opportunities throughout Monrovia.

In October 2021 a new electric vehicle was unveiled. This vehicle was funded by a California State Library Grant. This grant enabled the purchase of a new specialized vehicle and provided funds for purchasing more books for the van collection.

The updated electric van features 1,371 books, a WiFi hotspot for quick book checkouts, and built in shelving for the collection. The vehicle makes weekly stops at each elementary school after dismissal during regularly scheduled school days, and monthly stops at the local preschool, middle schools, and high schools. At each visit, staff creates new library cards, enabling immediate access to the mobile library's collection of materials. The Monrovia Reads van brings with it the resources that our children need to enhance their lives through the power of knowledge. This aligns with the Strategic Plan's goals of supporting literacy and lifelong learning for all residents, regardless of their ability to visit the main library building, as well as keeping residents informed about library services and programs.

ANALYSIS:

Services:

The Monrovia Reads van provides library services, including: materials circulation and literacy-related activities for the community. This aligns with the Library's Strategic Plan, specifically the Strategic Direction of Enhanced Access, Goals 2 and 3 related to services in Southern Monrovia and expanding the mobility of the library. The van also falls under the Strategic Direction of Enhanced Partnerships, Goal 2 related to expanding the Library's partnership with the school district.

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The van's elementary school schedule for the 2022/2023 School Year:

Monday – 1:30-3:00 p.m. at Bradoaks
 Tuesday – 2-4:00 p.m. at Wild Rose
 Wednesday – 10:15 am -12:50 p.m. at Plymouth
 Thursday –1:50-3:20 p.m. at Monroe
 Friday - 1:50-3:20 p.m. at Mayflower

Expanded service continued this school year which included all middle and high schools in the school district as well as the Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC), the School District's preschool. These school sites were visited during the first week of every month. The schedule for these schools was as follows:

Monday- Canyon Early Learning Center
 Tuesday- Monrovia High School
 Wednesday- Santa Fe High Middle School
 Thursday- Clifton Middle School
 Friday- Canyon Oaks High School

Statistics:

Library Staff continue to work with the principals at each school to coordinate the location of the van and its schedule to ensure optimal usage without impacting school activities. Circulation and usage statistics are maintained by staff, including library cards, mileage, circulation, and attendance for both school visits and community events. Throughout the 22/23 service year the Monrovia Reads Van made a total of 114 visits, including schools and community outreach. The van served 6,260 people during those visits, made 247 new library cards, and checked out 2,527 books.

Visitor and Use Statistics - Elementary Schools						
	Bradoaks	Wildrose	Plymouth	Monroe	Mayflower	Totals
Total Visits	16	17	18	17	15	83
Total Attendance	655	818	1273	841	392	3979
Library Cards Created	48	37	119	30	7	241
Checked Outs Items	396	604	723	539	191	2453

Visitor and Use Statistics - Middle School, High School and Preschool						
	CELC	MHS	Santa Fe	Clifton	Canyon Oaks	Totals
Total Visits	3	6	4	4	4	21
Total Attendance	70	66	120	101	24	381
Library Cards Created	11	0	0	0	0	11
Checked Outs Items	27	8	41	25	0	101

The numbers above represent the school year from September 2022 through the last full week of May 2023.

The Monrovia Reads van was able to participate in and attend more community events during the 22/23 service year.

They include:

- Storytime in the Park at Station Square Park - July 2022
- Santa Anita Back to School Event - August 2022
- CELC Back to School Event - September 2022
- Halloween Bash in Library Park – October 2022
- Thankful & Grateful Event in Library Park - November 2022
- Annual Holiday Parade in Old Town - December 2022
- Spring Egg Hunt – April 2023
- MAP Neighborhood Conference at Second Baptist Church – April 2023
- Monrovia Days Parade – May 2023
- Annual So All May Read Fundraiser – May 2023

A total of 1,900 visitors joined staff at these events and enjoyed access to library materials for checkout and literacy focused learning activities in nontraditional settings. A total of 30 library cards were created. These types of events help build relationships and promote library services to the larger community. Staff look forward to continuing outreach events with the Monrovia Reads Van in the future and focusing on bringing awareness of the program to local residents.

Outcomes & Goals:

As outlined by the Strategic Plan's Enhanced Access Goal 3, the Monrovia Reads Van team established three outcomes and five goals that ensure the mobile literacy program is effective in how it provides its services.

The three outcomes include:

- providing library service and literacy support to elementary age students who are unable to regularly visit the library
- reducing barriers to library services and support for all residents, including those living in Southern Monrovia, as well as other diverse communities within the City of Monrovia
- create meaningful connections with children outside the library that enable staff to demonstrate and reinforce the link between literacy and opportunity

By visiting each elementary school regularly, van staff have been able to satisfy the outcomes, providing students with books to check out and activities that support the development of their literacy and learning skills outside the library. Staff continue to refine service models to reach as many students as possible. Access to obtaining a library card has been made easier so that more students can benefit from checking out materials.

Staff will work with CELC to reschedule missed monthly stops due to weather conditions and holidays in the upcoming school year. Monrovia High School and Canyon Oaks have lower checkout numbers but foot traffic allows staff to promote library services and recruit TAB members during the visits.

Through community outreach visits, the van has cultivated new partnerships with local businesses that have provided visibility and library access to new audiences. The services provided by the

Monrovia Reads Van staff varies based on the needs of each particular outreach. Maintaining a presence at schools, local businesses, and community events have resulted in reduced barriers to library services and support for all residents. This in turn has expanded access to library materials across the community.

What has been particularly satisfying for staff is the opportunity to serve a diverse audience while bringing mobile library services into the community. Bringing the van to schools allowed more students to have their first experience with the library. Many students were able to get their first ever library card while visiting the van.

In addition to the outcomes, five goals that align with the outcomes were established several years ago as a way to provide measurable benchmarks for the services and impact the program is having at schools and within the community. As of June 2023, all goals have been completed.

The goals include:

- Establishing van visits with all schools in the Monrovia Unified School District (*completed*)
- Increase understanding of library services and offerings by 25% based on surveys of mobile library users (*completed*)
- Increase mobile library circulation at school sites by 10% from the previous school year (*completed*)
- Provide informal learning opportunities through games and activities that focus on a key learning or literacy skill each month during the academic year (*completed & ongoing*)
- Create special collections that supports the school district's curriculum of Spanish and Mandarin language materials (*completed*)

This year the van visits were impacted by the winter storms, especially during the month of March. March had 10 cancelled school visits however the van still served 280 patrons, issued six new cards and checked out 99 books. April brought sunnier weather and numbers doubled with 480 patrons, 16 cards issued and 277 books borrowed. Patrons this school year were allowed to check out one book per visit. By setting this limit, staff were able to see a better return rate on books, with titles having a higher check out rate overall.

Community Feedback:

- "We very much look forward to working with you and having you on campus again this year. Santa Fe loves the van!" – Santa Fe Principal (former), Geoff Zamarripa
- "We are looking forward to seeing you this school year! Thank you for providing this awesome program."
– Bradoaks Principal, Jayne Nickles
- "We can't wait to have the van back! The kids love the van." --- Mayflower Principal, Michelle Costarella

Staffing & Budget:

The Monrovia Reads Mobile Literacy Program has rotating part-time and full-time staff members assigned to the van. Staff from Adult Services, Youth Services, and Circulation all actively participate in helping to bring the van into the community and to the schools. The total staff hours for the van was 623 hours for a total staffing cost of \$21,078 in FY22/23. The Monrovia Reads

organization approved \$20,000 for staffing of the van for FY22/23 at their June 2023 meeting. The remaining staffing costs are paid for by the City.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the Library Board move to receive and file AR-1 Monrovia Reads Mobile Literacy Program Annual Report FY2022/2023.

LIBRARY BOARD ACTION REQUIRED: If the Library Board concurs the appropriate action would be a motion to: ***Receive and file AR-1 Monrovia Reads Mobile Literacy Program Annual Report FY2022/2023.***

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