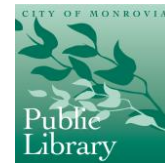




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services,
Library Division

MEETING DATE: July 27, 2023

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Adult Programs

On June 2 and 16, Adult Services staff visited Brookdale Senior Living to facilitate a book club. The book club members read passages from *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi and *My Sister, the Serial Killer* by Oyinkan Braithwaite. However, they decided as a group to select a different book. Once a book is selected, the group will read together in 30-minute sections, leaving time for discussion. A total of seven people participated in this bi-monthly program.

On June 13, staff hosted the first in a monthly series, *Bilingual Tech Help* for adults. Two participants were able to receive help with their devices and phones during the session. This program was in response to the increasing requests for technology assistance from patrons, including those who require bilingual support.

On June 16, the library hosted its monthly *Adult Game Night*, with 11 adults in attendance. Staff used an A-frame to attract visitors of the farmers market and were able to draw in a greater crowd that was curious and excited to participate. Attendees were welcomed by staff and introduced to other patrons already enjoying the space. Light conversations were cultivated with social based games, and the games collection was highlighted to new patrons.

On June 23, staff hosted the monthly Dungeons & Dragons programs for adults. Seven players enjoyed an evening of learning the basics of the popular, fantasy role-playing game; with a steady group growing each month. The participants got to enjoy a self-contained adventure to learn and experience the game over a two-hour period.

On June 27 and 28, Adult Services staff visited the New Horizons and Gadabout senior groups that meet weekly at the Community Center to share information about library resources and materials as well as sign up members for the Summer Reading Program. The two groups learned about Libby and ebooks, the library's Alzheimer's & Dementia Kits, as well as the Large Print collection.

Novel T's Book Club met on June 28 to discuss *We Have Always Lived in The Castle* by Shirley Jackson. A total of 17 participated, 14 in-person and three via Zoom in this monthly program. Next month's title is *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

Literacy Services

In June, a total of 59 Learners and Tutors participated in nine programs. Culture & Conversation continues with weekly hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) meetings, Book Club continues as a hybrid biweekly program, and Write Club continues as an in-person biweekly program. Staff and tutors facilitated the quarterly Watch & Talk Learner movie night to support literacy goals of conversation, pronunciation, and idiomatic expressions. Staff visited the Foothill Unity Center in Monrovia to continue our program's outreach efforts within the community.

Veterans Services

During the month of June, the Veterans Resource Center had a total of 106 interactions with veterans and their family members. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 20; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 23; and VRC staff 63. The library also hosted the Community Picnic Celebrating Veterans event on Saturday, June 24 in Library Park. Approximately 200 people enjoyed the event, which included information from over 20 community partners, BBQ, kids' activities, a letter station to write to service members, music, a community Thank You card for veterans, and flowers for a personal memorial to fallen soldiers. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive and plans are underway for next year's picnic.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Summer Reading Kick-off Event!

On Saturday, June 10, the library hosted its first in person kick-off event after Covid-19 pandemic. Patrons were treated to a special *Magic Show* by Billy Bonkers, arts and crafts, Inflatable basketball and soccer games, giant connect four, dino dig, bubble dance party and minute to win it games. The 501st Legion Star Wars characters made a special appearance; patrons also had refreshments from Raising Canes and Jarritos. A total of 900 community members of all ages attended the event.

Innovation Lab

The Innovation Lab program last month drew a large group of children between the ages of 6 and 11, and their families. The program attendees learned about STEAM-related subject matter, including, coding, design and engineering. This program continues to provide opportunities to enhance access, technology and experiences for school-aged children in Monrovia. A total of 33 children and their caregivers attended the event.

Baby Storytime

This early literacy program on Tuesdays for families with young children aged 0-2, continues to have a large following. The program has been moved outside to take advantage of the picturesque backdrop of Library Park and to accommodate the large crowds. Staff share songs, rhymes, stories, and activities to help develop language and literacy in the youngest members of the community. The benefits of talking, reading, singing, writing, and playing are being promoted to young minds to promote their growth. In total, 362 children and caregivers attended the storytimes.

Storytimes

The staff hosted storytime on the following Wednesdays, June 7, 14, 21, and 28. Families came together to hear stories, sing and dance, practice movement, engage in sensory activities and craft. Some of the themes highlighted included reading, fathers, birthdays, birthdays, and dreams. There was a total of 375 children and their caretakers who attended the storytimes.

Storytime with the Park Naturalists

On Saturday, June 17, the staff, once again in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Division of Community Services, presented a special storytime at Lucinda Garcia Park. In addition to the educational and entertaining presentation by Park Naturalist on animal senses and hiking safety, staff also shared stories, songs, and rhymes with program attendees. The event concluded with participants making crafts and socializing with other attendees. The library is committed to utilizing this opportunity to improve community experiences, expand access, and enhance partnerships. A total of 57 children and their caregivers were in attendance.

LEGO Free Play

On Saturday, June 24, the library hosted a Lego Free Play event. Children between the ages of one and 13, as well as a number of parents and caregivers attended the program. At the program, the children were able to exhibit their creativity. They built a house for unicorns and pigs, a train station, an anthropomorphic car, and a large city for mini-figures. This program is designed to provide children and families with an opportunity to develop fine motor skills. Help to think critically and creatively, improve concentration and focus, problem-solving, improve spatial skills, and boost self-confidence. This event was attended by 97 children and their caregivers.

Mini-Vation Lab: Toddler STEAM Activities

The Innovation Lab program for elementary aged children, has helped to spawn a new program called Mini-vation Lab for toddlers. So far this summer, the library has held two programs, which drew large groups of curious children between the ages of 2 and 5, and their families. They learned about dinosaurs and Newtonian and Non-Newtonian fluids. Staff took an active approach to teaching the program attendees about this STEAM-related subject matter. This program will assist in the development of critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving, while nurturing their curiosity and imagination. A total of 76 children and their caregivers attended the event.

Crafternoon

Crafternoon is a weekly drop-in craft program that offers crafts for children of all ages. Every week is a different craft where kids can design, decorate and create until their heart is happy. The crafts for June included: painted tote bags, paper popsicles, fuse bead art, and paper plate bugs and animals. The program was well received by many children and parents working together to create their designs. A total of 405 children and their caregivers attended the events.

Video Game Free Play

The library held its first Video Game Free Play program for the summer on June 29, designed for children between 6 and 11 years old. There was a large attendance and many positive responses to the event. The kids enjoyed playing some of their favorite video games with their friends from the library's Game

Collection, while parents were happy to see their children get a chance to socialize and interact with other kids their own age in a secure environment. A total of 51 children and their caregivers attended.

Innovation Lab Presents: Solar Ovens

On June 21, staff held a STEAM program where children of all ages built solar ovens. After building their solar oven, they were provided with ingredients for making s'mores. There was tremendous participation at the event and an overwhelmingly supportive response to this program. Children and parents/caretakers worked together to create their solar ovens. The program had a lively yet light atmosphere that was palpable, with an infectious sense of contentment and accomplishment that comes with creating something from practically nothing. Staff continue to enjoy bringing people together while enhancing experiences, access, technology and the library's image in the community. A total of 101 children and caregivers attended the event.

Barks & Books

In partnership with *Love on a Leash* and *Therapy Dogs International*, the library encouraged literacy and strengthened reading confidence with this Barks and Books program. Young children find it much easier to read aloud to a dog. 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.

Imagination Station

Children between the ages of 4 years and 2nd grade gathered 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 such as Grocery Store/Restaurant, Zoo, Post Office, and Talent Show. A total of 226 children and their caregivers attended these events.

Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Event Outreach

The Library participated in the Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Anniversary Block Party at Julian Fisher Park on June 24. This outreach opportunity allowed staff to share ongoing library programming through interactive means. Attendees who visited the Monrovia Public Library table were able to spin a wheel to win a prize and some library swag. A total of 200 children and their caregivers attended the event.

Sensory Playtime

Children of all ages with sensory processing disorders and Autism Spectrum Disorder were invited to explore, play, and make new friends in a welcoming, accepting, and celebratory atmosphere designed specifically for their needs. Children practiced their experimentation and collaboration skills as they chose what and how they wanted to play with sensory toys and books, with a focus on sharing, friendly conversation, and fine and gross motor skills. 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 15 children and their caregivers attended the event.

Teen Advisory Board (TAB)

The June TAB meeting took place on June 5 in the Library Community Room and was led by the TAB officer board. During the meeting, TAB members received updates on volunteer opportunities in June. The teens signed up to help with the summer reading kick-off event, storytime craft preparation on Tuesday afternoons, Innovation Lab, and Lego Free Play. After the regular meeting, staff held an end-of-year party to celebrate the graduating seniors and all the hard work that TAB members put in over the past year. The teens played games and socialized with each other while enjoying some pizza and other snacks. By June, 40 TAB members had completed their volunteer hour requirements so there was a lot to celebrate. A total of 32 TAB members attended.