



**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services, Library Division

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2023

PREPARED BY: Carey Vance,
Library Manager
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AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES

Adult Programs

On July 11, staff hosted *Bilingual Tech Help* for adults. Four 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. Staff will ask for feedback regarding future technology support programming needs from the participants at the August session.

On July 21, the library hosted its monthly *Adult Game Night*, with 15 adults in attendance. The two-hour program was supplied with video games, board games, and puzzles from the library's game collection. The social game *Herd Mentality* has been quite popular in the group thus far and is an excellent way for strangers to open up and share interests and opinions on small subjects and pop culture.

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 July 18 and 19, 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. A total of 58 attendees learned about Libby and ebooks, the library's Alzheimer's & Dementia Kits, the Large Print collection, and were very interested in the library's 3D printing service.

Novel T's Book Club met on July 25 to discuss *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows. A total of 15 participated, 12 in-person and three via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *The Mirror Crack'd From Side to Side* by Agatha Christie.

On July 28, Adult Services staff visited Brookdale Senior Living to facilitate a book club. The book club members read *Open and Shut* by David Rosenfelt and discussed the entire book at the meeting. After the book discussion, the members decided on two new titles to read the following month. Members were also given a chance to receive a free book as part of the summer reading program.

Literacy Services

In July, a total of 47 Learners and Tutors participated in eight programs. *Culture & Conversation* continues with weekly hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) meetings, *Book Club* continues as a biweekly hybrid program, and *Write Club* continues as a biweekly on-site program. Staff provided a family literacy program called *Start with Art*, where learners, young children, and their parents/caregivers enjoyed a storytime, created collage art together, and went home with picture books to add to their home libraries.

Veterans Services

During the month of July, the Veterans Resource Center had a total of 116 interactions with veterans and their family members. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 25; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 22; and VRC staff 69. Library staff also participated in the Chamber of Commerce mixer at the local VFW on July 27th and shared information about the Veterans Resource Center with the 25 attendees.

YOUTH SERVICES

Storytimes

Library Staff hosted storytime on the following Wednesdays, July 5, 12, 19, 26. Families gathered to hear stories, sing, and dance, practice movement, enjoy sensory activities, and make a craft. Some themes highlighted were music, shopping, sick, and summer. A total of 324 children and their caregivers attended.

Storytime with the Park Naturalists

On Saturday, July 15, the library once again, collaborated with the Parks and Recreation side of Community Services to present another special storytime for the community at Station Square Park. Staff shared stories, songs and rhymes with program attendees, along with an educational and entertaining presentation by Park Naturalist and their colleagues about animal senses and hiking safety. To cap off the event participants made crafts and were able to socialize with other attendees. A total of 51 children and their caregivers participated.

Baby Storytime

The early literacy program, Baby Storytime, for families with young children aged 0-2, continues to grow in popularity. Staff share songs, rhymes, stories and activities with families to assist in the development of language and literacy in the youngest members of the community. Staff are as determined as ever in the ceaseless crusade to champion the benefits of talking, reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds. A total of 285 children and their caregivers participated.

Bilingual Storytime

On Saturday, July 8, the library hosted bilingual storytime. Children were treated to songs, rhymes and stories in both English and Spanish. A total of 40 children and their caregivers attended.

Sensory Playtime

The Sensory Playtime Program continued in July. 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 this demographic's 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 29 children and their caregivers attended.

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. A total of 12 children participated in this program.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover

On Thursday, July 6, young patrons dropped off their beloved stuffed animals for an overnight stay at the library. Each stuffy received a nametag and when the library closed, they participated in a number of exciting activities. Eighty stuffed animals participated and enjoyed a pizza party, movie time, and stories, hide and seek, crafts, games, and much more. With the help of Teen Advisory Board (TAB) volunteers, photos and video were taken throughout the evening. On Saturday, July 8, the stuffed animal owners came to the library to pick up their toys. During the pickup, the participants enjoyed animal cookie snacks, listened to stuffed animal stories, and snuggled up to view a movie all about their favorite stuffed animals' library adventure. Afterward, they made teddy bear crafts and the option of a second showing was made available. The library posted the popular video on its website so children could watch it from home. There were 130 total in attendance.

Innovation Lab

On Wednesday, July 12, staff hosted its monthly STEAM program for children ages of 6 and 11 and their families. The program attendees learned about STEAM-related subject matter, including, coding, robotics and engineering. The activities were created to challenge the adaptability, creativity and decision making prowess of the children attending the program. This program continues to provide opportunities to enhance access, technology and enhanced experiences for school-aged children. A total of 48 children and their caregivers participated.

LEGO Free Play

On Saturday, July 29, the library hosted a Lego Free Play event. There was a large turnout for this event, just over 60 people during the two hours. The program was attended by children between the ages of one and 13, along with a number of parents and caregivers. The children were able to flex their creativity at the program building a number of different inventive and imaginative builds. This program provides children and families with an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, critically and creatively think, develop concentration and focus, problem solve, refine organization and project management skills and boost self-confidence which are all of great consequence. The program provides participants with an opportunity to engage and build relationships with their families and other members of the community. The program has

received a very positive response and staff are pleased with the turnout. A total of 60 children and their caregivers participated.

Mini-Vation Lab: Toddler STEAM Activities

Two programs were held in July for the Mini-variation Lab for toddlers, which is an offshoot of the popular Innovation Lab program for elementary school-aged children. The programs attracted a large group of curious and excited children between the ages of two and five, along with their families. Participants learned about planets in the solar system, shadows, and chemical reactions between bases and acids. The program had an active approach to teaching the program attendees about STEAM-related subject matter by encouraging experimentation and a hands-on approach. This program series assists in the development of critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving while nurturing the children's curiosity and imagination. A total of 84 children and their caregivers participated.

Crafternoon

Crafternoon continued through the month of July as a weekly drop-in craft program for children of all ages. Each week is a different craft for children to express their creativity. The crafts for July were the following: planters, bracelets and keychains, popsicle stick picture frames, coloring bookmarks and paper pinwheels. A total of 420 children and their caregivers participated.

Outreach and Visits

Summers Schools

On July 13 and 14, Library Staff visited both summer school locations in Monrovia at Mayflower Elementary and Monroe Elementary. A total of 415 students enjoyed multiple assemblies and participated in exciting games about summer and the library. The students teamed up and enthusiastically shouted out answers to help their teammates. Staff also reminded them to come to the library and sign up for the Summer Reading Program to receive free books and prizes.

Pasadena Christian Preschool

Pasadena Christian Preschool visited the library for a special storytime that included books, sensory activity, and songs. Library staff promoted the Summer Reading Program and encouraged those in attendance to check out the many programs available in at the library. A total of 100 children, parents, and teachers participated.

Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association Summer Picnic

On Saturday, July 8, staff participated in the Monrovia Duarte Black Alumni Association (MDBAA) summer picnic event and brought along the Monrovia Reads Van. Staff handed out library information on programs and handed out free books to children in attendance. A total of 200 children and their caregivers participated in the event.

TEEN SERVICES

TAB Meeting

The July Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on July 10 in the Library Community Room and was led by the TAB Council. During the meeting, TAB members received updates on volunteering in July. The teens signed up to help with the Storytime Craft Preparation on Tuesday Afternoons, Innovation Lab, Video Game Free Play, and Lego Free Play. The TAB members also signed up to promote the Summer Reading Program at Teen Scene on July 14 in Library Park. Summer Reading Program volunteering continued and TAB members staffed an information table in the Library Lobby 3 days a week throughout July. A total of 22 TAB members attended the meeting.

Teen Hangouts

Throughout July, staff held Teen Hangouts on Thursday Afternoons. The Story Room was open for teens to come and enjoy snacks, board games, and Nintendo Switch games from 2-4 pm. Teens were able to enjoy a safe place to hang out, socialize, and play together during the hot summer months through this weekly program. The teens volunteered as leaders during the program to greet teenagers and guide them through the various games. The most popular choices were Mario Kart and Smash Ultimate on the Nintendo Switch. Playing games is a fun way for teens to practice communication and critical thinking. Overall, the hangouts were successful and will continue on the 3rd Friday of each month in the fall. A total of 31 teens attended this program throughout July.