



**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: **Community Services, Library Division**

MEETING DATE: October 26, 2023

PREPARED BY: Kurt Gally,  
Youth Services Supervisor  
Ginger Antunez,  
Youth Services Supervisor

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

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**ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

***Adult Programs***

On September 8, the library held its first Adult Flashback Friday program, with 20 adults in attendance. This month's program had attendees participating in friendly rounds of *Family Feud*. The participants enjoyed their experience and are looking forward to next month's Jeopardy program.

On September 15, the library hosted its monthly *Adult Game Night*, with 18 adults in attendance. Staff provided the large group with a selection of highly active and fast-paced Nintendo Switch games that the attendees enjoyed for the entire two-hour window.

Novel T's Book Club met on September 26 to discuss *The House of Mirth* by Edith Wharton. A total of 18 participated, 15 in-person and three via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *California Soul* by Keith Corbin.

On September 29, staff hosted the monthly *Dungeons & Dragons* programs for adults. A full party of six players enjoyed an evening exploring a ruined dwarvish temple and fighting off monsters. Participants got to enjoy a self-contained adventure to learn and experience the game over a two-hour period.

On September 30, Adult Services staff collaborated with Monrovia Music Academy to offer more Beginner Ukulele Lessons for Adults using the libraries own collection of ukuleles. This session had 10 participants. At least five participants were seniors that learned about this program during our summer outreach to the New Horizons and the Gad-a-bouts. The program discussed instrument tuning, basic cords, and culminated in playing simplified versions of the songs, *You are My Sunshine*, Chuck Berry's *Johnny B. Goode*, and Jimmy Buffett's *Margaritaville*.

***Literacy Services***

In September, a total of 67 Learners and Tutors participated in nine 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 facilitated *Watch & Talk*, a program that gives learners an opportunity to gather and enrich their conversation skills. Staff participated

in a site visit at Carlsbad's Library Learning Center to gather inspiration and practices to implement into our literacy program.

### ***Veterans Services***

During the month of September, the *Veterans Resource Center* had a total of 107 interactions with veterans and their family members. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 12; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 15; and VRC staff 80. Library staff, and Mr. Hayden Velasquez, Los Angeles County military Veterans Service Officer attended our new monthly *Meetup* at Starbuck, the location is at 239 W. Huntington Drive, Monrovia. Veterans and family member attended the casual and informal coffee and light refreshments gathering. Invitation open to all whether they are new to the community or long-term Monrovians. We want to meet them and hear their stories. Staff presented during City Council meeting on Tuesday, September 19 2023, Salute to Service Ceremony for new Service Members.

## **YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

### ***Hispanic Heritage Month***

The Library hosted a *Hispanic Heritage Month* event to celebrate Hispanic and Latin American cultures and contributions. The event began in Library Park with a bilingual storytime led by Youth Services staff, followed by a folklorico performance from *Ballet Folklorico Azteca de Homework House*, a student dance group from Azusa. Following the performance, attendees were led inside the library for crafts representing different aspects of Hispanic culture. Children and adults were invited to make their own Guatemalan worry doll, Mexican talavera tiles and amate art. Attendees were given Jarritos, Mexican fruit flavored soda, which were generously donated in support of the library program.

A total of 150 children and adults attended the event.

### ***Sensory Friendly Morning***

The *Sensory Playtime* program evolved to a more encompassing *Sensory Friendly Morning* in September. 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. The library's full offerings were now available, including book check-outs, accessible crafts, and sensory play, carried over from the original Sensory Playtime program. Pre-registration continued to be encouraged as attendance is limited for comfort and safety, though walk-ups were welcomed as space allowed. A total of 23 children and caregivers attended this program.

### ***Craftastic***

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. *Salt painting* was the topic this month. A total of 80 children and caregivers attended.

### ***Innovation Lab***

Library staff held an *Innovation Lab* on September 20 for 15 elementary school-aged children. The program attendees learned about engineering, mathematics and fractals. Staff will continue to offer an assortment of *STEAM* programming for school-aged children for the foreseeable future to ensure we are enhancing experiences, access and technology for the people of Monrovia.

### ***Baby Storytime***

Library staff offered Baby Storytime, for families with young children aged 0-2. Staff shared songs, rhymes, stories and activities to assist in the development of language and literacy in the youngest members of our community.

### ***Storytime with the Park Naturalists***

On Saturday, September 16, the library collaborated with the *Parks and Recreation* side of Community Services to present another storytime with the Park Naturalists. Storytime was held at Lucinda Garcia Park and shared stories, songs and rhymes with program attendees, along with a presentation by Park Naturalist Amanda about animal senses and hiking safety. To cap off the event, the 50 participants made crafts and were able to socialize with other attendees.

### ***Mini-Vation Lab: Toddler STEAM Activities***

Our *Mini-Vation Lab* for toddlers, an offshoot of our Innovation Lab program for elementary school aged children, had one program in September. Once again, the program drew a large group of eager and engrossed children between the ages of 2 and 5, and their families. The children learned some basic information about engineering and structural design and integrity. A total of 52 children and caregivers attended.

### ***LEGO Free Play***

On Saturday, September 23, the library hosted a *Lego Free Play* event. There were children between the ages of 1 and 13 who attended the program, along with a number of parents and caregivers. The children built all sorts of different things at the program. Importantly, we are providing the children, and families, of Monrovia with an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, critically and creatively think, and 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 59 children and caregivers attended.

### ***Monrovia Unified School District (MUSD) Back to School Nights***

The library attended the *Back to School Nights* of the Monrovia preschool, elementary, middle, and high schools. Library programs and services were promoted to families as they moved between teacher presentations. Each event saw around 10-20 interactions with families.

## **TEEN PROGRAMS**

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

The September Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on September 11 in the Library Community Room and was led by the TAB Council. During the meeting, teen members received updates on volunteering in September. The teens signed up to help with Innovation Lab, backroom help preparing crafts for Storytime, toy cleaning after storytimes, and Lego Free Play. They also signed up to host two teen events, *The Teen Game Night* and *Teen Drop-in DIY*. This was the first meeting with our new TAB council and the start of the new TAB year. Council members introduced themselves with some fun facts and led an icebreaker activity called Common Three. A total of 30 TAB members attended the meeting.

The *Teen Game Night* event was held on Friday, September 22 after the library closed. The teens came, enjoyed snacks, played Nintendo Switch Games, and board games. The most popular games of the night were *Mario Kart* and *Smash Ultimate*. This was a TAB led program so volunteers welcomed their peers and showed them what was going on while having fun themselves. Our ongoing teen game nights provide teens a safe and supervised environment to learn healthy competition and practice their critical thinking and social skills. A total of 15 teens attended this program.

The first *Teen Drop-in DIY* event was held on Wednesday, September 27 in the Teen Area. The craft activity this month was fuse beads. The teens who came made several designs with their beads including a butterfly, a cat, and pride flags. They were able to turn their designs into magnets or keychains. The crafting events can provide teens a space to socialize with like-minded peers and express themselves creativity. A total of 5 teens attended this program.