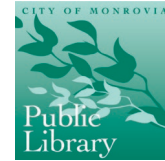




**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services, Library Division

**MEETING DATE:** February 22, 2024

**PREPARED BY:** Kurt Gally  
Adult Services Supervisor  
Ginger Antunez  
Youth Services Supervisor

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

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**ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

***Adult Programs***

On January 5, the library held its 5 Gameshow Extravaganza Program. The program had 30 adults in attendance. Attendees participated in the game *25 Words or Less*. Next month's gameshow will be inspired by the *25,000 Pyramid* gameshow.

On January 8, the library hosted its monthly *Dungeons and Dragons* program with eight participants. This program has built a small community of players that are passionate about the game and excited the library is hosting it each month.

On January 9, Adult Services staff held its monthly Winter Crafternoon program. The activity was creating a travel journal, using scrapbook paper and various supplies for decoration. Seven patrons attended the event. This program series came about in response to feedback from community members looking for a relaxing, creative outlet for adults.

On January 12, the library hosted its monthly Tabletop Game Night for Adults. The group of eight gamers enjoyed a puzzle as well as energetic rounds of *Battle Sheep*, *Blokus XL*, *Boop*, and *Blank Slate*.

On January 26, the library hosted a Video Game Tournament for *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe* on the Nintendo Switch. A total of seven patrons attended and enjoyed exhilarating rounds of *Mario Kart* as they raced to the finish line.

Novel T's Book Club met on January 23 to discuss "*Fast Food Nation*" by Eric Schlosser. A total of 16 participated, 14 in-person and two via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh.

***Literacy Services***

In January, a total of 69 Learners and Tutors participated in nine programs which included ongoing programs like *Culture & Conversation*, *Book Club*, and *Write Club*. Staff facilitated the first Tutor Roundtable, where tutors were encouraged to share ideas, make suggestions to the program, and get

inspired for another season of literacy achievement. In response to positive feedback from the Tutors, staff will host these roundtables on a regular basis moving forward.

### ***Veterans Services***

During the month of January, the Veterans Resource Center had a total of 148 interactions with veterans and their family members. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 15; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 33; and VRC staff 100.

January's Veterans Meetup at Starbucks had one attendee. Library staff & VPAN Specialists, Brock Milhorn & Matthew Marquez, dropped by Monrovia's Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) location. Staff dropped off flyers and started discussions for future collaborations with Monrovia's VFW members. Staff & VPAN Specialist Brock Milhorn will give a presentation on the Library's Veterans Resources Center and upcoming programs on February 20, 2024 during the Monrovia VFW Post #2027 monthly meeting.

The Monthly Veterans Meetup at Starbucks (239 W. Huntington Drive) will have a new meeting date on the fourth Tuesday of each month beginning in March. This change was made in order to avoid conflicting schedules with the American Legion and VFW monthly meetings, which should encourage more veterans to attend the meetup.

On January 20, a total of 35 veterans, military service members, and family members attended a free breakfast and before-hours tour of the Monrovia Historical Museum. Attendees ate light refreshments while hearing about services offered by the library's Veterans Resource Center, including stories about Monrovians and their experiences during wartime from museum boardmember, Oliver Beckwith.

### **YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

#### ***Storytime***

Library Staff hosted weekly Wednesday storytimes for families, who gathered to hear stories, sing, and dance, practice movement, enjoy sensory activities, and make a craft. Storytime plays a pivotal role in childhood development by nurturing a child's cognitive, emotional, and social growth. It helps children expand their vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills as they engage with characters and narratives. Activities with beanbags and bells offer multisensory experiences, enhancing cognitive and physical development in children. A total of 326 children and their caregivers attended.

#### ***Baby Storytime***

Library early literacy program, Baby Storytime, is for families with young children aged 0-2. Staff share songs, rhymes, stories and activities to assist in the development of language and literacy for young children. A total of 187 children and their caregivers attended.

#### ***Bilingual Storytime***

On Saturday, January 6, the library hosted its first Bilingual Storytime of the year. Families learned songs, stories and finger plays in Spanish and English. A total of five caregivers and their children attended.

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

On Saturday, January 20, Monrovia Public Library partnered with the Parks and Recreation side of Community Services to present another Storytime with the Park Naturalists program. Staff met at the library and shared stories, songs and rhymes with program attendees, along with a presentation by a Park

Naturalist about animal senses and hiking safety. Participants made crafts and were able to engage with other attendees. A total of 42 children and their caregivers attended.

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

This monthly program provides children, and families, an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, critical and creative thinking, concentration and focus and self-confidence. Staff continue to be happy with the turnout and have received a positive response to the program. A total of 75 children and their caregivers attended.

### ***Innovation Lab***

The Innovation Lab program took place on January 24, for elementary school-aged children. The program attendees learned about engineering, mathematics and other STEAM-related subject matter. Staff continue to offer an assortment of STEAM programming for school-aged children to ensure the library is enhancing experiences, access and technology for the community. A total of 28 children and their caregivers attended.

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

The Mini-vention Lab, which is an extension of the Innovation Lab program for elementary school aged children, is held each month for children between the ages of 2 and 5, and their families. Children learned basic information about physics and Newtonian Laws of Motion by building different sized catapults. Staff continue to take an active approach on teaching the program attendees about STEAM-related subject matter by encouraging experimentation and a hands-on approach. This program assists in the development of critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving while nurturing curiosity and imagination. A total of 49 children and their caregivers attended.

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

The library hosted a Sensory Friendly Morning in January for neurodivergent children. Children with sensory processing disorders, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, were invited to explore, play, and make new friends in a welcoming, accepting, and celebratory atmosphere designed specifically for this demographics' needs. A total of 25 children and caregivers attended.

### ***Barks & Books***

In partnership with Love on a Leash and Therapy Dogs International, the library encouraged literacy and strengthened reading confidence with the twice monthly Barks and Books program. This program allows young children to read to a service animal in a judgement-free and positive environment. Each participant receives 10 minutes with the dog which allows for 5-6 participants at each program. A total of 12 children participated in the two programs in January.

### ***Cube Kids***

Children and parents gathered together for a dynamic afterschool activity designed to enhance memory, patience, and problem-solving skills, while fostering concentration and having fun! Children played with Rubik's cubes and other strategy games. This program is tailored for school-aged children, offering a space to develop skills, socialize, and problem solve together. A total of 26 children and their caregivers attended.

### ***Stay & Play***

For this special holiday program, families were invited for an extended free play session. Parents and caregivers with children ages zero to three were invited to explore various play stations, which supports cognitive and fine motor skill development. Play stations included large puzzles, jumbo Legos, wooden blocks, foam climbing blocks, large vehicles with road maps, color sorting, dolls, and stacking manipulatives. A total of 50 children and their caregivers attended

### ***Craft Corner***

For this special holiday program, families were invited to create a craft for the winter season. Children, with the help of their caregivers, decorated wooden sticks with paint, ribbon, and paper to make a snow stick or magic wand. The program had a total of 50 children and caregivers

### ***Crafternoon***

Children were invited to express their creativity in designing a vision board and/or collage filled with goals for the year. Children were able to create a self-portrait to learn about themselves and find what makes them unique and special. A total of 100 children and their caregivers attended

### **Outreach**

#### ***Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC)***

Staff provided special storytimes with books and songs for the classes of CELC on January 11 for a total of 150 preschool students.

#### ***First Lutheran Visit***

Library staff visited First Lutheran Preschool and conducted two storytimes for the 2-year-old classes and their 3-5-year-old classes. Students and teachers heard stories, sang songs, and danced, practicing early literacy skills and habits. A total of 25 students participated.

#### ***Mayflower Elementary***

Staff welcomed Mayflower's TK classes to the library on January 19 for a tour of the library and storytime. A total of 80 students and teachers participated.

#### ***Tzu Chi Class Visit***

Students from the Tzu Chi Preschool visited the Monrovia Public Library for a time-themed storytime. Students, teachers, and chaperones heard stories, sang songs, and danced. A total of 80 students participated.

Including the class visits as well as outreach via the Monrovia Reads Van, staff provided library services to a total of 711 students during the month of January.

### **Teen Programming**

#### ***TAB Meeting***

The January TAB meeting took place on January 8 in the Library Community Room and was led by the TAB Council. TAB council led an ice breaker activity asking peers to share things that they accomplished in 2023 and goals for 2024. During the meeting TAB members received updates on volunteering in January. Teens signed up to help with Innovation Lab, preparing crafts for Storytime, the Space Exploration program, and Lego Free Play. A total of 32 TAB members attended the meeting.

#### ***Teen Game Night***

Teen Game Night was held on Friday, January 19 after library hours. Teens enjoyed snacks, played Nintendo Switch Games, and board games. This was a TAB led program that had six teens attend.

#### ***TAB Presents...***

The first "TAB Presents" event was held on Saturday, January 27th. TAB members spent the last several TAB meetings brainstorming an idea for a teen event and planning it out. This quarter's event was Minute

to Win it Games. Teens who came to the event played in 4 different competitions: Water Bottle Flip, Human Ring Toss, Balloon Keep-up, and Cup Stacking with 7 teens attending the program.

### ***Teen Makerspace***

Pop-up Makerspace for Teens was held on Wednesday, January 31 in the Teen Area. Teens used the portable makerspace cart. This cart contained a variety of tools and supplies for making different crafts and art pieces. Some teens crocheted and others made bookmarks, clay charms, and coloring pages. Crafting events can provide teens a space to socialize with like-minded peers and express themselves creativity. A total of four teens attended this program.