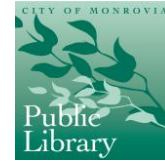




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: **Community Services, Library Division**

MEETING DATE: April 25, 2024

PREPARED BY: Kurt Gally
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AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Adult Programs

On March 1, the library held its Gameshow Extravaganza program. This month's event had attendees participating in rounds of Jeopardy. The program had 30 adults in attendance. Attendees had fun competing, and racing to showcase their trivia skills. The participants enjoyed their experience and are looking forward to next month's event, *Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader*, on April 5.

On March 5, Adult Services staff held its monthly Spring Crafternoon program with 14 participants. This month's craft was rock painting with acrylic markers. It was a fun and relaxing program that allowed the participants the freedom to create and express themselves artistically.

On March 8, the Monthly Tabletop Game Night for Adults returned to the Community Room to showcase the library's tabletop game collection. A total of 12 adults enjoyed a group game of *Hive Mind* before branching off into separate games of *Battle Sheep* and *Dragons vs Unicorns*.

On March 18, the library hosted its monthly Dungeons & Dragons Program with a full list of registered participants. This large number of sign-ups was met with excitement and a creative solution by the resident dungeon master (DM) and another participant. A seasoned player volunteered to DM a separate quest to give everyone on the waitlist a chance to play! In total, there were two games, eight players, and two observers for a grand total of 12 roleplaying individuals getting in and out of trouble on a Monday night.

On March 22, Library staff introduced four new patrons to the basics of the Nintendo Switch system. Another 11 individuals enjoyed the free-play aspect of the gaming program. The 15 adult gamers were able to sample much of the library's extensive video game collection throughout the night.

On March 27, Novel T's Book Club met to discuss *Ordinary People* by Judith Guest. A total of 22 participated, 19 in-person and three via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *The Control of Nature* by John McPhee.

Literacy Services

In March, a total of 70 Learners and Tutors participated in 10 programs. Culture & Conversation, Book Club, and Write Club continue as regular programming. The Tutor Roundtable was held again this month to provide tutors a space to share ideas, make suggestions to the program, and get inspired for another season of literacy achievement. In response to positive feedback, this program will expand to monthly meetings beginning this summer.

Veterans Services

During the month of March, the Veterans Resource Center had a total of 100 interactions with veterans and their family members. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 15; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 0; and VRC staff 85. (The VPAN representative was out due to a family emergency. VPAN is sending a substitute rep beginning April 2.)

On March 9, a total of seven veterans and family members enjoyed a beginner Line Dancing class provided by Monrovia's own John and Katie Watson. Attendees learned the step-by-step basics of classic line dances such as *The Electric Slide*, *Cupid Shuffle* and many more in a fun and social atmosphere.

On March 13, staff participated in a webinar on serving veterans as part of the Ursula Meyer Library Advocacy Training Series offered by the California Library Association (CLA). The topic was focused on advocating for community groups, highlighting the work of Monrovia Public Library's Veterans Resource Center (VRC). The free, online, and highly interactive session featured a 90-minute exploration of MPL's approach to advocating on behalf of a community group (veterans). The discussion covered the start of the program from a grant funded service and the steps it took to blossom it into the current Veterans Resource Center.

On March 19, staff provided a short presentation on the Library's Veterans Resources Center services and upcoming programs during the Monrovia Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post# 2027 monthly meeting. Veterans had the opportunity to ask questions, schedule appointments with a VSO and offer insights on how to connect with local veterans. One member expressed much gratitude as he was able to quickly and easily process a claim through the help of the library's VSO Hayden Velazquez.

On March 26, four local veterans joined library VRC staff for coffee and treats at the Monthly Veterans Meetup at Starbucks (239 W. Huntington Drive). The group discussed possible future programming ideas for veterans, ways to recruit veterans to the VFW and ways to connect them to the VRC. Towards the latter half of the gathering, funny stories and memories from years of service were exchanged.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Storytimes

Staff hosted storytime for 2-5 year olds on Wednesdays in March. Families gathered to hear stories, sing, and dance, practice movement, enjoy sensory activities, and make a craft. Storytime helps children expand their vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills as they engage with characters and narratives. Activities with parachute play, shaker eggs, bells, rhythm sticks and more offer multisensory experiences, enhancing cognitive and physical development in children. Some themes highlighted this month were spring, the color green, terrible days, and eggs. A total of 340 children and caregivers attended.

Baby Storytime

The early literacy program, Baby Storytime, for families with young children aged 0-2 continued. Attendees shared songs, rhymes, stories and activities to assist in the development of language and literacy in the youngest members of the community. A total of 343 children and caregivers attended.

Storytime with the Park Naturalists

On Saturday, March 9, the library collaborated with the Parks and Recreation side of Community Services to present another Storytime with the Park Naturalists program, located at Rotary Park. Staff shared park-themed stories, songs, and dances, then used knowledge of local wildlife to do some auditory storytelling with the Naturalists. To cap off the event, participants did some art and played together on the Rotary Park play structure. Staff continue to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance experiences, access, and partnerships within the community. A total of 31 children and caregivers attended.

Bilingual Storytime

The caregivers and children enjoyed songs, stories and motor skill activities in Spanish and English. Children used the call and repeat method to learn new words and shouted them out during the story. A total of 30 children and caregivers attended.

Sensory Friendly Morning

The library hosted the monthly Sensory Friendly Morning on March 16 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. The library's full offerings were available, including book check-outs, accessible crafts, and sensory play. 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 25 children and caregivers attended.

PROGRAMS

LEGO Free Play

Staff hosted a LEGO Free Play event this past month. During this program, children were able to flex their creativity by building a number of different things. The library is providing the children, and families, of Monrovia with an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, critically and creatively think, develop concentration and focus as well as boost self-confidence.

Innovation Lab

The Innovation Lab program on March 20 for elementary school-aged children had attendees learning about engineering, mathematics and other STEAM-related subject matter. Youth services will continue to offer an assortment of STEAM programming for school-aged children for the foreseeable future to ensure enhanced experiences, access and technology for the people of Monrovia. A total of 20 children and caregivers attended.

Mini-Vation Lab: Toddler STEAM Activities

The Mini-Vation Lab for toddlers was held on March 15. The program drew a large group of excited and engaged children between the ages of two and five, and their families. The children learned some basic information about chemistry, specifically dissolution and solubility, while they experimented mixing different substances, like flour, rainbow sprinkles and cotton candy, into water. Youth Services continue to take an active approach to 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, problem solving while nurturing curiosity, and imagination. A total of 32 children and caregivers attended.

Video Game Free Play

The library held a Video Game Free Play program on March 28 for children between the ages of six and 11. The kids enjoyed playing some of their favorite video games with their friends 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 eight children attended.

Craft-Tastic

The library welcomed families to this monthly arts and craft program on a rainy Saturday in March. Children, with the help of their parents and caregivers, repurposed brown paper bags into crowns fit for royalty. Staff supplied various materials (pompoms, gems, sequins, foam shapes, and markers) to decorate their creations. Children were also able to make fairy wands with stars and ribbons. An estimated 150 children and adults 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 than to adults. 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 during the hour program. This program was available on Tuesdays, March 5 and 19. A total of seven children participated.

SCHOOL VISITS

Mayflower Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Class Visit

Students from Mayflower's Transitional Kindergarten (TK) classes visited the Monrovia Public Library for a shelter themed storytime. Students, teachers, and chaperones heard stories, sang songs, and danced as we thought about where different creatures make a home and why. A total of 55 children and caregivers attended.

Tzu-Chi School Visit

The Tzu Chi Preschool and Kindergarten visited the library for a fun storytime. Staff led young children in action songs and movements. The storytime included books and songs centered on a color theme with counting aspects. To conclude the visit, the children participated in action songs with scarves to assist with self-regulation and understanding of concepts. An estimated 80 children visited the library with parents and teachers.

First Lutheran Visit

Library staff visited First Lutheran Preschool, conducting two storytimes for their 2-year-old class and their 3-5-year-old class. Students and teachers heard stories, sang songs, and danced, practicing early literacy skills and habits. A total of 33 children and caregivers attended.

SPECIAL EVENTS

St. Patrick's Scavenger Hunt

During the month of March, the library hosted a St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt, inviting young patrons to immerse themselves in a holiday-themed passive program within the confines of the Youth Services area. Eager participants embarked on a quest to seek out seven hidden clovers, each with rainbow colors and bearing a special letter. Once collected, the letters unraveled a library-related word such as "Reading," "Stories," and "Authors." Upon successfully unscrambling the letters, participants went to the Reference Desk to claim a prize, adding a touch of fun to their library experience. With the opportunity to participate once a day, the anticipation remained high as the scavenger hunt word underwent a weekly transformation, promising fresh excitement and discovery with each visit. The program garnered remarkable engagement, with over 204 patrons fostering a spirit of curiosity and exploration within the library.

Festival of Colors/Holi Celebration

In celebration of this Indian tradition, the library hosted a celebration of color on Saturday, March 23, enriching the community with the cultural traditions and significance of this cherished holiday. The event commenced with a presentation by the Sriardraalaya Dancers, who shared insights into the rich history of the Festival of Colors, imparting the meanings behind its diverse elements, food, clothing, art, music, dance, and the iconic array of fine powders. As the festival marks the transition from winter to spring, symbolizing renewal and the triumph of good over evil, participants were encouraged to immerse themselves in the festivities, donning cultural attire for a photo booth and partaking in activities such as crafting vibrant sand mandalas, intricate quilling, and dot painting. Families embraced the tradition of adorning their faces with colorful powders, symbolizing the exuberance and joy inherent in the holiday. A total of 95 children and caregivers attended.

TEEN PROGRAMS

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD (TAB)

The TAB meeting took place on March 4 in the library Story Room and was led by the TAB Council. The TAB council led attendees in an icebreaker activity asking about their favorite book or author. Favorites that were shared included the “*Summer I Turned Pretty*” by Jenny Han and “*Under the Whispering Door*” by TJ Klune. During the meeting, the teen members received updates on volunteering in March. The teens signed up to help with Innovation Lab, Backroom Help preparing crafts for Storytime, the Spring Egg Hunt, and the Festival of Colors Celebration. The teen members also signed up to host two monthly teen events (Teen Game Night and Pop-up Teen Makerspace). The activity this month was creating blackout poetry as examples for a National Poetry Month display in the teen area. A total of 25 TAB members attended the meeting.

Teen Game Night

The Teen Game Night event was held on Friday, March 15 after school. The teens enjoyed snacks, played Nintendo Switch Games, and board games. The most popular games were Boomerang Fu, Switch Sports, and Mario Kart. This was a TAB led program, so volunteers welcomed their peers and showed them what was going on while having fun themselves. The ongoing teen game hangouts provide teens a safe and supervised environment to learn healthy competition and practice their critical thinking and social skills. A total of 11 teens attended this program

Teen Makerspace

The Pop-up Makerspace for teens was held on Wednesday, March 27 in the Teen Area. The teens were invited to use the portable makerspace cart. This cart has many tools and supplies for making many different crafts and art pieces. Some teens used the cart’s tools to make air-dry clay keychains and others used the new 3D art pen and Sphero robots. Maker events can provide teens a space to socialize with like-minded peers and express themselves creatively. A total of five teens attended this program.

Teen Craft Help

Last month the Teen Advisory Board planned a craft activity for kids to host in their booth at the Spring Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 30. The Spring Egg Hunt was cancelled due to rain; therefore, TAB hosted their craft at the library instead. They helped children and their families to create bunny ear headbands. The Teen Advisory Board came up with this activity and provided assistance in preparing all the necessary materials. The event was hosted by several teens at the library on Saturday. Families were welcomed, supplies were provided, and children were assisted with their crafts. This program was attended by 200 children and families.