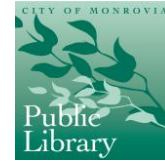




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: Community Services,
Library Division

MEETING DATE: May 23, 2024

PREPARED BY: Kurt Gally
Adult Services Supervisor
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AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Adult Programs

On April 2, Adult Services staff held its monthly *Spring Crafternoon* program with 23 participants. This month's activity was crafting mini terrariums with real succulents in glass cookie jars. Participants enjoyed putting a creative touch on their own mini garden in a fun and relaxed social setting.

On April 5, the library held its *Gameshow Extravaganza* program. This month's event had attendees participating in rounds of *Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader*. The program had 38 attendees. Everyone had fun working in teams to showcase all the knowledge they retained from their elementary school days. The participants enjoyed their experience and are looking forward to next month's gameshow challenge *Family Feud* on May 3.

On April 12, the local population of tabletop gamers once again found themselves at the library for the monthly *Tabletop Game Night*. The group began at a small table and enjoyed a puzzle together. Working like a pack of piranhas in reverse, they brought back to life a huge puzzle T-Rex. The attendees kept rolling in, and soon enough, they found themselves in a large game of Codenames, another game with dice called Age of War, and a dedicated few working on a brand new puzzle. Before saying goodbye, the group came together and took a wonderful photo with each guest holding up a different game or puzzle, and a smile on every face.

On April 13, Adult Services staff partnered with Monrovia Music Academy to offer more beginner ukulele lessons for adults using the libraries own collection of ukuleles. This session had 13 participants. The program discussed instrument tuning, basic cords, and culminated in playing simplified versions of the songs: *Row Row Row Your Boat*, *You are My Sunshine*, and *Yellow Submarine*. Three participants checked out a ukulele after the class!

On April 15, the library was preparing for a *Dungeons and Dragons* session that had not once, but twice reached its max capacity. The list of 10 registrants was not enough. The signups were full within a week, and staff decided to open an additional five spots to allow others to witness the fun. The additional spots were claimed in just two days. The event saw a total of 14 guests excitedly playing in the made up worlds for two hours, until a magical fetch quest was complete and a murder mystery solved!

CC-2

On April 23, the Novel T's Book Club met to discuss *The Control of Nature* by John McPhee. A total of 21 participated, 17 in-person and four via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *Time's Arrow* by Martin Amis.

On April 26, staff introduced two new patrons to the Nintendo Switch System with an exciting mini game in Mario Party. An additional seven gamers enjoyed the Mario Kart racetrack until drifting into the boxing ring for rounds of *Super Smash Bros*.

Literacy Services

In April, a total of 70 learners and tutors participated in 10 programs. *Culture & Conversation* continues with weekly hybrid (Zoom and in-Person) meetings, Book Club continues as a biweekly hybrid program, Write Club continues as a biweekly hybrid program, and Watch & Talk continues as a monthly in-person program. Tutor training was provided as a two-part session led by Dianna Baycich, Literacy Projects Coordinator. The coordinator instructed tutors on best practices for increasing learner writing and for supporting stronger reading skills at home. Literacy Staff attended a Southern California Library Literacy Network gathering to discuss recruitment strategies and California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) application preparation.

Veterans Services

During the month of April, the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) had a total of 113 interactions with veterans and their family members. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 12; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 15 and VRC staff 86.

On April 6, library VRC staff hosted a table at the 5th annual "*Heroes in the Shadows*" Homeless Veterans Stand Down event in South El Monte. Library staff had over 200 interactions with veterans and attendees. The event is an effort to connect and qualify attendees to the support and resources they need, to prevent and end homelessness for all who served. The success of the event was made possible with the collaborative effort of the entire San Gabriel Valley (SGV) Veteran support community.

On April 16, library VRC staff visited Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Post # 2070 in Monrovia to congratulate new post commander Floyd Henderson and to drop off flyers for the Veterans Thank you Dinner on May 1 and Community Picnic on June 1.

On April 23, four veterans (including one council member) joined library VRC staff to enjoy casual conversations, coffee and lemon cake at Starbucks (239 W. Huntington Drive). The group discussed veterans in the Monrovia Days Parade and future veterans' event ideas. The invitation remains open to all veterans, service members and their family every 4th Tuesday of the month.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Baby Storytime

The early literacy program, Baby Storytime, for families with young children aged 0-2 continues to flourish. Together attendees share songs, rhymes, stories and activities to assist in the development of language and literacy in the youngest members of the community. Youth staff consistently highlight the benefits of

talking, reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds. Baby storytimes in April had 450 total attendees.

Storytimes

Library Staff hosted storytime for 2-5 year olds on Wednesdays in April. Families assembled to listen to tales, sing, move, and engage in physical activities, relish sensory experiences, and create crafts together. Storytelling holds significant importance in the development of children, fostering their cognitive, emotional, and social progression. It aids in broadening children's vocabulary, understanding, and analytical abilities as they immerse themselves in characters and stories. Activities with beanbags, scarves, shakers, rhythm sticks and more offer multisensory experiences, enhancing cognitive and physical development in children. Some themes highlighted this month were gardens, library, insects, and trees. Storytimes in April had 387 total attendees.

Innovation Lab

Staff hosted its monthly Innovation Lab on April 17 for 35 elementary school-aged children. The program attendees learned about circuits, engineering, mathematics and other STEAM-related subject matter. Staff will continue to offer an assortment of STEAM programming for school-aged children for the foreseeable future to ensure the library is enhancing experiences, access and technology for the people of Monrovia.

Mini-Vation Lab: Toddler STEAM Activities

The Mini-vention Lab for toddlers, an offshoot of the Innovation Lab program for elementary school-aged children, was held on April 12. This popular, monthly program drew a large group of 52 excited children between the ages of 2 and 5, and their families. The children all had to complete a scavenger hunt outside in Library Park. The library continues 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, and problem solving while nurturing curiosity and imagination.

Video Game Free Play

The library held a video game free play program on April 25. This program is for children between the ages of 6 and 11. The seven children in attendance 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.

The Life of a Star with Solar Telescope Viewing

On Saturday April 6, the library held a program for 150 kids and families about the life of a star. Carson Brucker, a NASA STAR Ambassador, spoke about space, stars and planets in the solar system and fielded a number of interesting questions from patrons of all ages during the program. After the program concluded, staff was able to pass out over 200 pairs of free eclipse viewing glasses to the public, thanks to a grant from the STAR Library Network.

North American Wildlife Presented by the Wildlife Learning Center

On Tuesday April 2, the library hosted a program, presented by the Wildlife Learning Center, as a part of spring break special programming. The 125 attendees were treated to an informative presentation about North American Wildlife featuring nine different, live animals indigenous to the continent, including a porcupine and an armadillo.

Barks & Books

In partnership with *Love on a Leash and Therapy Dogs International*, the library encourages literacy and strengthens reading confidence with the twice-monthly *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 program. A total of 9 children participated in the one-on-one sessions in April.

Poetry Picnic

Throughout April, visitors to the library commemorated National Poetry Month. Through interactive events and scavenger hunts, the Poetry Picnic hosted by the library, focused on educating participants about rhyming words, various forms of poetry, and acrostic poems. Poetry serves as a tool for enhancing literacy skills, introducing auditory elements, expanding vocabulary, and fostering creativity.

AAPINH Celebration

In celebration of Asian American Pacific Islander Native Hawaiian (AAPINH) Month, the library organized a vibrant cultural affair. Featuring mesmerizing performances by Hawaiian Dancers from the Aletheia Dance Troupe. The event showcased rhythmic storytelling through songs and movements, captivating all in attendance. Each young guest received a lei to adorn themselves and participated in a brief yet enjoyable lesson. Following the festivities, attendees engaged in constructing crafts that included mandala scratch art stencils, painted shells, and Chinese fans. The event attracted 90 participants.

Innovation Lab: Spring Break

Special editions of the library's Innovation Lab program for elementary school-aged children were held throughout the week coinciding with Monrovia Unified School District's spring break. The program attendees tackled engineering challenges using LEGOs and created models of the upcoming solar eclipse. A total of 99 children attended the programs during spring break.

Craft-Tastic: Spring Break Edition

The library hosted a special arts and craft program during spring break to celebrate the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8. Children used colorful paint to create galaxies on coasters, followed by sealing their design in mod podge. The program was messy but provided families with a fun hands-on activity with splatter art. The program had 120 attendees, composed of children and their caregivers.

Craft-Tastic

The library continued promoting the solar eclipse with crafts to teach about the momentous event. Children were invited to make straw rockets, solar system wreaths, and paper plate solar eclipses. Along with different space themed art activities, the library also provided supplies for families to create lunar cards as part of the cultural celebration of Ramadan. The program had 200 attendees.

Sensory Friendly Morning

The library hosted another *Sensory Friendly Morning* in April 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 demographic's 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 12 children and caregivers attended.

Storytime with the Park Naturalists

On Saturday, April 13, the library partnered with the Parks & Recreation Division to present another Storytime with the Park Naturalists program. The program was relocated from Station Square Park to the Monrovia Public Library due to rain. Staff shared bird-themed stories, songs, and dances, then learned about local birds and practiced using different tools to try to hunt for worms like a bird does in the

presentation by a Park Naturalist. To cap off the event, participants made art and played with bird puppets together. A total of 90 children and caregivers attended.

Teen Programming

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Monthly Meeting

The April TAB meeting took place on April 1 with the TAB council leading an icebreaker activity with the 16 teens in attendance, creating a tier list of snacks. During the meeting, TAB members received updates on volunteering in April. The teens signed up to help with Teen Laser Tag, Innovation Lab, Backroom Help preparing crafts for Storytime, and the AAPI Month Celebration. Teen Advisory Board members also signed up to host two monthly teen events (Teen Game Night and Pop-up Teen Makerspace). There was a guest speaker from the Recreation Department, Andrew, who came to talk about summer teen events and get TAB's ideas for what teens in Monrovia would like to do this summer.

Teen Laser Tag

The Teen Laser Tag event was held on Thursday, April 4 after the library closed. They also enjoyed snacks and a Smash Ultimate tournament in between games. Playing both laser tag and video games gives teens the chance to practice communication and critical thinking in a fun way. Laser tag is always a hit and will return in the summer. A total of 15 teens came and played laser tag games throughout the library.

Teen Game Night

The Teen Game Night event was held on Friday, April 19 after school. Teens came, enjoyed snacks, played Nintendo Switch Games, and board games. The most popular games were Mario Kart and Pico Park (a collaborative team puzzle game). 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 13 teens attended this program.

Pop-up Makerspace for Teens

The Pop-up Makerspace for Teens was held on Wednesday, April 24 in the Teen Area. Teens were invited to use the portable makerspace cart. This cart has many tools and supplies for making a variety of different crafts and art pieces. Some teens used the cart's tools to make air dry clay keychains, beaded friendship bracelets, or try out the new 3D art pen. Maker events can provide teens a space to socialize with like-minded peers and express themselves creatively. A total of 13 teens attended this program.

Earth Day & Arbor Day Celebration

On Saturday, April 20, TAB hosted a scavenger hunt for kids and their families at the city's Earth Day and Arbor Day Celebration in Library Park. The teen volunteers had participants search for different Earth Day related things in Library Park and then return to their booth for a prize. A total of 50 children and families participated in the activity.

Outreach

Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) 14th Annual Neighborhood Conference

The library participated in the MAP 14th Annual Neighborhood Conference at Second Baptist Church on April 27. This outreach opportunity allowed staff to share current and upcoming library programming, as well as sign up community members with their very own library card. The Monrovia Reads Van made an

appearance with children's books available for check-out. Approximately 80 people visited the library's table at the outreach event, with nine new library card sign-ups.

Wild Rose Kindergarten Class Visit

Students from Wild Rose's kindergarten classes visited the Monrovia Public Library for a book-themed storytime. Students, teachers, and chaperones heard stories, sang songs, and danced before touring the Youth Services area and checking out books. There were approximately 70 attendees.

Monrovia Police Department's Public Safety Sensory Event

The library participated in the Police Department's annual event for families with children with sensory processing disorders on April 27. This outreach opportunity allowed staff to share current and upcoming library programming that best fits this demographic's needs, such as the library's monthly Sensory Playtime program. Approximately 25 people visited the library's table at the outreach event.