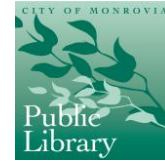




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: **Community Services,
Library Division**

MEETING DATE: June 27, 2024

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

AGENDA LOCATION: CC-2

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Adult Programs

On May 3, the library held its *Gameshow Extravaganza program*. This month's event had attendees participating in rounds of *Family Feud*. The program had 37 attendees. The participants worked in teams to share the top answers to fun survey questions. The participants had a great time and are looking forward to the next *Family Feud* during the Summer Reading Kickoff event.

On May 7, Adult Services staff held its monthly *Spring Crafternoon program* with 10 participants. This month's activity was nature journaling outdoors in Library Park. Attendees enjoyed the balmy weather while drawing, painting, and writing in the provided blank books.

On May 10, twelve Monrovia residents participated in a few frantic *Rounds of Tapple*, went out to graze in Heard Mentality, tried TWO team-based versions of tic-tac-toe, and *almost* completed a 100-piece puzzle.

On May 20, the library welcomed 14 Dungeons and Dragons participants to the ever-popular role-playing program. The groups were busy "sailing the heist seas", fighting winged forces, and exploding for two hours.

On May 24, library staff took off the training wheels for three new Mario Kart 8 Deluxe players and showed them all the tips, tricks, and cheats they needed to compete with the more experienced players. A group of eight racers spent the time reminiscing about the Mario Kart tracks of previous systems and enjoying the new offerings in the most recent title.

On May 28, the Novel T's Book Club met to discuss *Time's Arrow* by Martin Amis. A total of 21 participated, 19 in-person and two via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett.

Literacy Services

In May, a total of 83 learners and tutors participated in 10 programs, including: Culture & Conversation, Book Club, Write Club, and Speak Easy. In partnership with Youth Services staff, literacy provided a family literacy event that aimed to empower parents as their child's first teacher and celebrated all types of families. Families created crafts together, engaged in song and story time, and received free books for the

home library. Staff attended the 40th anniversary special conference of California Library Literacy Services at Asilomar Conference Grounds to share ideas and make connections within the statewide network of literacy programs.

Veterans Services

During the month of May, the Veterans Resource Center had a total of 264 interactions with veterans and their family members; County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 108; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 37; and VRC staff 119.

On May 1, the library and Veterans Resource Center (VRC) hosted its annual *Veterans Thank You Dinner*. A total of 65 Veterans and family members enjoyed a delicious barbecue dinner provided by Jakes Roadhouse. Library and VRC staff thanked the veterans in attendance for their sacrifice. LA County Veteran Service Officer Hayden Velasquez gave a summary of the Veterans Affairs services that he is able to assist veterans with, while Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) peer support specialist Brock Milhorn discussed how the veterans peer access network serves its fellow veterans.

On May 28, four veterans & one library board member joined VRC staff for coffee and treats at the Monthly Veterans Meetup at Starbucks (239 W. Huntington Drive). The group enjoyed a casual and friendly conversation that covered unique military experiences, the fascinating history of Monrovia, and historical events of Southern California and its prominent figures.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Baby Storytime

The purpose of Baby Storytime is to help families with young children aged 0-2 with early literacy through a program hosted by library staff. The goal of this program is to demonstrate how early literacy practices can be implemented at home to help babies develop the skills necessary for school readiness. By talking, singing, reading, writing, and playing, children gain exposure to the complexity of sounds those form words. During storytime, staff leads families in singing, rhymes, and reads aloud books that concentrate on important subjects like colors, numbers, and rhymes. Storytime ends with free play, allowing caregivers to play with their children and socialize with other families. There were 250 attendees in total.

Storytime

Storytime was offered to young children by library staff on Wednesdays in May. Families gather to listen to stories, sing, move, engage in physical activities, enjoy sensory experiences, and create crafts together. Storytelling has a significant impact on the development of children, promoting their cognitive, emotional, and social progress. It helps children expand their vocabulary, understanding, and analytical abilities by immersing themselves in characters and stories. By using bubbles, bells, shaker eggs, rhythm sticks, and a makeshift instrument parade, multisensory experiences were created that improved cognitive and physical development in kids. Some themes highlighted this month were cleaning, mothers, cities, big & small, and favorites. There were 492 attendees in total.

Bilingual Storytime

Families had a great time with stories, songs, and rhymes in English and Spanish. The focus was on food, and children were taught how to express things such as ice cream, cake, and cookies in Spanish. There were a total of 15 children and their caregivers in attendance.

PROGRAMS

May the 4th Be With You

On May 4, *Star Wars Day*, families were provided with Star Wars themed crafts, created BB8s, RD2Ds, and were able to create their own Jedi. There was even a special photo opportunity with Princess Leia and Baby Yoda. There were 60 children and their caregivers in attendance.

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, May 7 and 21. A total of 12 children participated in the one-on-one sessions.

Family Literacy + Craft-Tastic

Youth Services and Adult Services collaborated to incorporate a sing-along and art activity aspect into this spring storytelling program. Families attended a short storytime, followed by an arts and craft activity that included snacks and books to take home. Youth Services staff led families in a sing along before stories relating to a family aspect were read aloud. The program encourages parents and caregivers to assist children in the development of literacy skills through reading, talking, and singing. Families glued small pieces of tissue paper to a glass jar and made pipe cleaner flowers for a fun spring craft. The program had a total of 70 attendees.

LEGO Free Play

The staff hosted a *LEGO Free Play* event this past month. The program provided opportunities for children to develop their creativity by building a variety of things. The library is offering Monrovia residents the chance to enhance their fine motor skills, think critically and creatively, focus and concentrate, and increase self-confidence. A total of 77 attendees enjoyed the program with their families and other community members.

Sensory Friendly Morning

A Sensory Friendly Morning for Neurodivergent Children was held again by the library in May. Children with sensory processing disorders, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, were invited to experience exploration, play, and form new friendships in an atmosphere that was designed to meet their needs and was welcoming, accepting, and celebratory. The library had a full range of offerings, which included book check-outs, accessible crafts, and sensory play. Pre-registration remains a priority due to the limited attendance for comfort and safety, but walk-ups were welcomed, as there was space. The attendance included 12 children and caregivers.

OUTREACH

Summer Reading School Assemblies

In May, the Youth Services Department engaged in a number of outreach assemblies to promote the upcoming Summer Reading Program at all five elementary schools in the area. This effort aimed to foster a love for reading and encourage community participation in library programs. The library's team visited each of the five elementary schools and conducted fourteen assemblies. These sessions were designed to captivate and engage students from all grade levels, from Kindergarten to 5th grade, ensuring maximum reach and impact. This Olympic-themed program encouraged active participation from the students, with dinosaur races and an award ceremony, which provided students with a memorable surprise and amusement. Approximately, 2,500 students participated in the special school assemblies for summer reading with library staff.

Canyon Early Learning Center (CELC) Visits

Library staff visited Canyon Early Learning Center for butterfly themed storytimes, which were staggered throughout the day so that all students in the school could attend. Students and teachers heard stories, sang songs, and danced while exploring the idea of life cycles. There were approximately 150 attendees.

Tsu Chi Preschool Visit

On May 16, preschoolers from Tsu Chi visited the library to enjoy stories and learn more about all that the library has to offer them and their families. The 25 children received a tour of the library and participated in a fun activity after storytime.

Bradoaks TK & Kindergarten Visit

On May 31, the TK and Kindergarten classes from Bradoaks visited the library for a tour as well as a storytime and fun activity. A total of 80 students visited the library.

Third Grade City Tours

The library participated in the citywide tours attended by third grade classes from every Monrovia Unified School District (MUSD) elementary school. Students heard about the library offerings over summer, including the upcoming Summer Reading Program, and the reminder that the library van will be visiting their school again in the fall. Students then practiced the voting process, in accordance with the “voting” theme of the tour, by submitting a ballot for their favorite age-appropriate book series (*Dog Man* by Dave Pilkey was the overall favorite, with Jeff Kinney’s *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* coming in second). The students greatly enjoyed the friendly, low-stakes democratic experience.

TEEN PROGRAMMING

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Monthly Meeting

The May meeting took place on May 6 in the library community room and was led by the TAB Council. The teen council led an icebreaker activity, creating a tier list of Pixar movies. During the meeting, the teen members received updates on volunteering in May. The teens signed up to help with Backroom Help preparing crafts for *Storytime*, the *Monrovia historic home tours*, and *Lego free play*. The teen members also signed up to host a monthly teen event, such as *Pop-up Makerspace*. The activity this month was brainstorming program ideas for the fall. A total of 24 TAB members attended the meeting.

Pop-up Makerspace for Teens

Held on Wednesday, May 29 in the Teen Area, local 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, beaded friendship bracelets, and others came for a crochet lesson. Maker events can give teens a chance to socialize with like-minded individuals and display their creativity. This program had 14 teens in attendance.