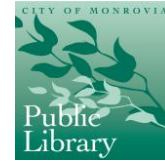




**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services,  
Library Division

**MEETING DATE:** July 25, 2024

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

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

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**ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

***Adult Programs***

On June 4, the library held the monthly *Summer Craft-tabulous* program with 18 participants. This month's activity was painting miniature canvases with magnet backs. Bob Ross painted on the big-screen TV as participants painted subjects of their choice from scenery, to pets, to Pokemon.

On June 6, the library held a workshop to demonstrate the new *iFixit* kits provided by the California State Library. A total of 11 attendees observed as presenter Johnny Matson showed how to use the different tools in the kit. The demonstration included repairs to smart phones, game consoles, controllers and other electronics. Participants completed a survey at the end of the program to fulfill California State Library (CSL) grant requirements and their responses were very positive.

On June 14, the *Tabletop Game Night* for Adults had its highest turnout yet with a total of 19 Monrovia residents gathered around several tables collecting points in "Anomia", surviving American Monsters in "Horried" and finally completing that 100 piece puzzle.

On June 17, ten role-playing, dungeon crawling, fast talking, adventure loving players once again set out to answer the DND call in Monrovia. One group of combat-loving players took on four rampaging creatures in a snowy labyrinth, while another group set out to investigate the disappearance of a local priest in a decrepit crypt. Both parties were able to successfully resolve their quests but not before one player character was felled to several unfortunate rolls and perished in the tombs. The absurdity of bad luck was met with unexpected disbelief and laughter from the entire group as they tried to prevent it.

On June 21, library staff visited Brookdale Senior Living to facilitate a tech help session. The community members took turns asking for help with individual problems on their cell phones. A total of three people participated in this monthly program.

On June 22, library staff attended Julian Fisher Park for the annual Monrovia Area Partnership (MAP) Block Party. Over 160 Community members enjoyed the opportunity to sign up for library cards, check out materials from the Monrovia Reads Van, and sign up for the Summer Reading Program. Attendees were also able to share, via interactive survey, the types of programs and materials they would like to continue to see offered by the library.

**CC-2**

On June 25, the *Novel T's Book Club* met to discuss *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett. A total of 24 participated, 23 in-person and one via Zoom in this monthly program. Next month's title is *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath.

On June 25 and June 26, library staff visited the New Horizons and Gadabout senior groups that meet weekly at the Community Center to share information about library resources and materials as well as sign up members for the Summer Reading Program. A total of 73 attendees learned about how to set-up and use Libby, the online database to access ebooks and digital audiobooks. Five attendees either signed up for a library card or got a replacement in order to use this database.

On June 28, the *Nintendo Switch Freeplay program* also had its highest turnout to date! A total of 19 video game enthusiasts picked up a controller and enjoyed friendly conversation while trying out the library's extensive collection of multiplayer Switch Games.

### ***Literacy Services***

In June, a total of 65 learners and tutors participated in nine programs, including Culture & Conversation, Book Club, and Write Club. Staff conducted a classroom visit for the Monrovia Community Adult School (MCAS), where staff shared with MCAS students the many offerings of the Literacy program as well as other fantastic library services and programs.

### ***Veterans Services***

During the month of June, the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) had a total of 255 interactions with veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 95; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 40; and VRC staff 120.

On June 1, the library and VRC hosted its annual Community Picnic Celebrating Veterans and Military Service Members. A total of 275 veterans, service members, friends and families enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch grilled by volunteer veterans. Attendees had access to 20 booths with community partners offering various veterans services and information. Monrovia Police Department and Monrovia Fire Department were also onsite to show support. Children enjoyed face painting and learning about little critters brought by naturalists from Canyon Park. Local Boy Scout Troop #66 presented the colors and national anthem.

On June 25, five veterans & Monrovians joined library Veteran's Resource Center staff for tasty summer drinks and treats at the monthly Veterans Meetup at Starbucks (239 W. Huntington Drive). The group enjoyed casual and friendly conversations about military service, Monrovia's history, and local hiking groups.

## **YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

### ***Summer Reading Program Kickoff Event***

On Saturday, June 8, the library hosted its annual Kickoff to celebrate the start of the Summer Reading Program. Various activities for all ages were scheduled throughout the day in the library and in the park. These included a Dino Dig, Bubble Dance Party, a magician and juggler, arts & crafts, a Puzzle Speed Challenge, Family Feud, video games, inflatables, Minute-To-Win-It Games, and Star Wars costumed characters. Approximately 1,200 people attended the event.

### ***Baby Storytime***

The early literacy program, Baby Storytime, for families with young children aged 0 to 2 year old, continues to be immensely popular on Tuesday mornings. Attendees continue to share songs, rhymes, stories and activities together to assist in the development of language and literacy in the youngest members of the community. The library is as relentless as ever in the ceaseless crusade to champion the benefits of talking,

reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds. These advantages are purposefully promoted, while offering a plethora of chances for little ones to talk, read, sing, write and play at the weekly program. A total of 422 children and caregivers attended.

### **Storytime**

Library staff hosted storytime for children every Wednesday in June. 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 shaker eggs, maracas, beanbags, and sensory water beads provided multisensory experiences, enhancing cognitive and physical development in children. Some themes highlighted this month were food, emotions, monsters, and bedtime. A total of 342 people attended.

### **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, June 4 and 18. Twelve students total participated for the one-on-one sessions.

### **Max Lee Music Ukulele Lesson**

The library's partnership with Max Lee Music in Monrovia introduced a delightful musical opportunity for local children through a series of free ukulele lessons. Spanning over three consecutive Thursdays, June 6, 13, and 20, the program accommodated 45 young participants. Each hour-long session introduced the ukulele, where children learned about the parts of the instrument, mastered basic strumming techniques, and practiced two fundamental chords. By the conclusion of each lesson, the learners were able to strum along to a simple song using the chords they had learned. This musical initiative not only enriched the children's summer experience but also added a cultural dimension to the library's community engagement efforts.

### **Max Lee Art Lesson**

Max Lee Art in Monrovia generously teamed up with the library to offer a captivating art program over three consecutive Wednesdays, June 12, 19, and 26. Aimed at children aged 6 to 12, these hour-long sessions introduced participants to artistic techniques such as shading and mosaics. Each child had the opportunity to express their creativity through vibrant projects, including a mini ukulele and animal sticker mosaics. Max Lee Art not only provided all necessary supplies but also donated their time, making this a free and accessible venture for the community. Engaging in these artistic activities offers numerous benefits for children, including enhancing fine motor skills, boosting self-esteem, and fostering creative thinking. Through this program, children were able to explore their artistic potential in a supportive environment, walking away with both unique art pieces and invaluable new skills. A total of 49 children participated.

### **Conquer the Cub**

The library program *Conquer the Cube*, was designed to teach children the intricacies of solving the Rubik's Cube. Held on three consecutive Mondays, June 10, 17, and 24, this initiative was spearheaded by Aaron Chu, a 14-year-old Rubik's Cube competitor and one of the library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) volunteers. Aaron created a comprehensive three-day course that guided 27 young participants through the strategic process necessary to tackle this challenging puzzle. Each two-hour session was rich with learning, featuring Aaron's detailed PowerPoint presentations and hands-on assistance from his team of helpers to ensure every participant's questions were thoroughly addressed. As students progressed through various

levels, they received handouts with step-by-step instructions and were emailed links to videos that reinforced the skills learned, allowing them to practice at home. The involvement of parents, who were eager to learn alongside their children, highlighted the program's family-friendly appeal. Learning to solve the Rubik's Cube offers significant benefits, including enhanced problem-solving skills, improved hand-eye coordination, and the development of patience and persistence. This engaging library program not only taught children a fun and intellectual skill but also fostered a community of learning among families.

### ***Box-Car Drive-In Movie***

The *Box-Car Drive-In Movie* event, held on Saturday, June 29, in the library's Community Room, provided an imaginative and interactive experience for children and their caregivers. This unique program, attended by 54 participants, allowed families to work together to construct a personalized vehicle out of a cardboard box, which had been custom-made and generously donated by a long time library family. The construction process was organized into four creative stations managed by the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) volunteers. At the Auto Body Shop, participants picked up their box and an array of craft supplies to decorate their dream car. The Auto Detailing station provided enhancements like plastic cup lights and safety features such as edge-covering tape. At the Tire Center, cars were fitted with four black paper plate tires, secured with hot glue. The final station, License and Registration, allowed participants to decorate their license plate and take a driver's license photo.

After designing their vehicles, families moved to the Story Room, where they lined up their cardboard cars to watch a series of Pixar short films. Each car was equipped with a shoebox clamped to the side to hold popcorn, candy, and drinks, mimicking the nostalgic drive-in movie experience. This event was not only a fun and engaging activity but also beneficial for developing fine motor skills, fostering creativity, and enhancing problem-solving abilities. It also provided an excellent opportunity for children to engage in hands-on learning and for caregivers to participate actively in a shared creative process, strengthening family bonds and creating lasting memories. At the end of this two-hour program, each young motorist received their own personal driver's license with their photo on it.

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

The library hosted another Sensory Friendly Morning in June 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 13 children and caregivers attended.

### ***Innovation Lab***

The *Innovation Lab* program, for school-aged children, has continued into the month of June. The program drew in children between the ages of 6 and 11, and their families. The program attendees learned about STEAM-related subject matter, including, engineering, design and motion. The adaptability, creativity and decision making prowess of the children attending the program was challenged. This program continues to provide opportunities to enhance access, technology and experiences for school-aged children in Monrovia. The program had a total of 38 participants.

### ***Craft-tastic***

Summer crafts for families kick off at the Monrovia Public Library! *Craft-tastic* continues weekly for children during their summer break. Youth Services staff and Teen Advisory Board volunteers led families in various crafts over the four weeks of the special June edition of the program. The crafts for the month were the following: piñatas and kites made from brown paper bags, canvas painting, paper plate weaving, and

monsters made from cereal boxes. Each program had an estimated 100 - 150 attendees consisting of children of all ages and their guardians.

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

A *Lego Free Play* event was held by the library on June 25. There were children between the ages of one and 13, along with a number of parents and caregivers who attended the program. The children were able to flex their creativity at the program building a number of different inventive and imaginative builds. The staff is providing the children, and families, of Monrovia with an opportunity to develop fine motor skills, critically and creatively think, develop concentration and focus, problem solve, refine organization and project management skills and boost self-confidence, which are all of great consequence. The program offers an opportunity for attendees to engage and bond with their families and other members of the community. The program attracted 59 children and caregivers.

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

In June, *Mini-Vation Lab* for toddlers was held twice. The two programs drew large groups of curious and excited children between the ages of two and five, and their families. This month, a total of 46 attendees learned about dinosaurs, states of matter, and chemical reactions between bases and acids. Children and their caregivers are encouraged to experiment and take a hands-on approach. This program assists in the development of critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving, while nurturing the child's curiosity and imagination.

### ***Video Game Free Play***

A video game free play program was held on June 27. This program is for children between the ages of six and 11. The event had a strong turnout and many positive responses. The attendees had a good time playing their favorite video games with their friends. The parents were pleased to see their children socialize and interact with other kids their own age in a safe environment. A total of 24 children enjoyed the program.

## **OUTREACH**

### ***Plymouth and Wild Rose Summer School***

During June, the library and the Monrovia Unified School District organized educational Summer School assemblies at Wild Rose and Plymouth Elementary Schools to promote literacy. Starting at Wild Rose Elementary, 240 students from 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade participated in three assemblies featuring interactive games and book giveaways, to heighten their enthusiasm for reading. The success continued as the Monrovia Reads Van made its way to the playground, where library staff engaged the students with fun games during their lunch break. Later, at Plymouth Elementary, 97 students experienced a similar format with two assemblies that combined learning with fun, and the Monrovia Reads Van again played a pivotal role on the playground, enhancing the experience by offering accessible activities.

### ***Boys and Girls Club Monrovia***

On June 18, library staff visited the Boys and Girls Club of Monrovia to host an event aimed at promoting literacy among young learners. The visit saw participation from 38 children, spanning grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>, who were divided into three groups. The staff conducted interactive games during these sessions to foster a love for reading and improve literacy skills. Each child received a free book to add to their personal collection, which is another way to encourage their reading journey. Outreach activities like these highlight the library's commitment to extending educational support and resources to the community's youth, ensuring that learning continues beyond the traditional school environment.

## **TEEN PROGRAMMING**

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

The June meeting took place on June 3 in the Library Community Room and was led by the TAB council. During the meeting, the teen members received updates on volunteering in June. The teens signed up to help with the Summer Reading Kick-off, Storytime craft preparation on Tuesday Afternoons, Innovation Lab, and Lego Free Play. After the regular meeting, staff held an end-of-year party to celebrate the graduating seniors and all the hard work that teen members put in over the last year. The teens played games and socialized with each other while enjoying some pizza and other snacks. A total of 26 teen members attended the meeting.

### ***Teen Hangout***

The *Teen Game Hangout* event was held on Friday, June 21. The teens had a good time eating snacks, playing Nintendo Switch Games, and playing board games. The most popular games were Boomerang Fu and Smash Ultimate. This program was led by TAB members, and volunteers welcomed their peers and demonstrated what was happening while also having fun. 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***

The *Pop-up Makerspace* for teens was held on Wednesday, June 26 in the teen area. 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 made origami stars. The *Pop-up Makerspace* events provide teens a space to socialize with like-minded peers and express themselves creatively. There were 8 teens attending this program.