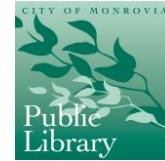




**CITY OF MONROVIA
LIBRARY BOARD
AGENDA REPORT**



DEPARTMENT: **Community Services, Library Division**

MEETING DATE: September 26, 2024

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

ADULT SERVICES REPORT

Adult Programs

On August 2, the library introduced a new *Trivia Night* event. This trivia night had attendees enjoying popcorn while working in teams to answer various movie-themed trivia questions. Participants enjoyed their evening, successfully showcased their knowledge of various movie genres, and are now excited for next month's Jeopardy challenge as part of the Gameshow Extravaganza program series. The program had 40 attendees.

On August 6, staff held the monthly Summer *Craft-tabulous* program with 25 participants. This month's activity was making flower lanterns. Participants covered glass lanterns with original designs made from pressed flowers.

On August 9, 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 and iPads. Three members participated in this monthly program.

On August 9, the *Table-top Game Night* brought 11 patrons together to play *Uno No Mercy*, *Block Party*, and *You Can't Say Umm*. The *Uno* game quickly got out of hand and excitement rose with brutal cards like "draw 10" and the ability to "stack" these effects caused some players to be eliminated for holding onto more than 25 cards at a time. Peace was restored when the group decided to move on to *Block Party*. Players created small works of art with blocks and earned points if the guesser could correctly name the object they tried to create.

On August 12, staff hosted eight dusty adventurers hoping to strike it rich in a western themed Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) quest with promises of gold and gems in the Story Room. The players had many obstacles to overcome including jumping into sinkholes, exploring a dark cave, combating several creatures, and trying to understand a particularly thick accent from one of the locals. By the end of two hours they had successfully defeated a Grick that was consuming the town's livestock, spared and peacefully relocated a local Xorn, and turned in a dirty mayor to the town sheriff. The rootin-tootin gang of adventures were rewarded with gems, gold and land for their efforts.

CC-2

On August 23, 14 Nintendo Switch enthusiasts got together for some *Couch Co-op* and enjoyed new titles including *Killer Queen Black* (a super cool 4 vs 4 team based arcade game), *Super Mario Party*, and the *Mario Kart 8 Deluxe*. The proverbial couch was quite full and the participants were eagerly hopping from system to system to try out new games and get to know their fellow Monroviaans.

On August 27, the Novel T's Book Club met to discuss *Lady Tan's Circle of Women* by Lisa See. A total of 21 participated, 20 in-person and 1 via Zoom, in this monthly program. Next month's title is *A Punishing Breed* by DC Frost.

Literacy Services

In August, a total of 75 learners and tutors participated in nine programs. *Culture & Conversation*, *Book Club*, *Write Club*, and *Speak Easy* continue as regular program series. A volunteer tutor and learner pair organized a surprise baby shower for the librarian that oversees Adult Literacy Services, which comprised of vocabulary bingo and conversation practice. This potluck gathering was a wonderful opportunity to gather and practice literacy skills while engaging in American social customs.

Veterans Services

During the month of August, the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) had a total of 289 interactions with veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 114; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 38; and VRC staff 137.

On August 27, eight veterans & family members joined library VRC staff for an afternoon iced coffee at the monthly Veterans Meetup at Starbucks (239 W. Huntington Drive). The group included three first-time attendees and conversations comprised of the different jobs worked during service, different bases visited and the conditions of the best/worst places to be stationed at abroad.

YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

Youth Programs

Barks & Books

In collaboration with *Love on a Leash and Therapy Dogs International*, the library hosts the bi-monthly Barks and Books program, designed to boost literacy and build reading confidence in young children. Reading aloud to a dog creates a relaxed and supportive environment, free from judgment and stress, making it easier for children to engage with books. This unique experience not only fosters a love for reading but also enhances social skills and emotional well-being. By interacting with a friendly service animal, children develop empathy, patience, and a deeper connection to reading. Each participant enjoys 10 minutes of one-on-one time with a dog during the hour-long program, creating lasting positive memories and encouraging a lifelong love of books. This program was available on Tuesdays, August 6 and 20. A total of 14 children participated.

Sensory Friendly Morning

The staff hosted the monthly *Sensory Friendly Morning* on August 24 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 checkouts, 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.

Toddler Storytime

Staff hosted storytime for 2-5 year olds on Wednesdays in August. 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 multisensory experiences were included, enhancing cognitive and physical development in children. Some themes highlighted this month were road trips, bears, farms, and pizza. A total of 260 children and caregivers attended.

Craft-tastic

The conclusion of the summer series of *Craft-tastic* featured families creating their own marionette made from a variety of supplies. Children and adults used cardboard tubes and popsicle sticks to bring their creation to life. Staff and teen volunteers assisted families in their design. The program enhances creativity and problem-solving skills in youth. A total of 90 children and caregivers attended.

Baby Storytime

The library continued its weekly storytime for babies. This program is designed to demonstrate early literacy practices that families, parents, and caregivers can continue at home to help their child between the ages of 0-2 develop the skills necessary for literacy. Reading, singing, writing, playing, and talking are simple practices that caregivers can do to support their child's future reading and writing development. Short books are read aloud to accompany songs and rhymes. Action songs and movements are incorporated with the use of colorful scarves and egg shakers. The storytime ends with free play allowing babies and toddlers to be imaginative through play, while families can socialize with each other. A total of 340 children and caregivers attended.

Storytime at Farmers Market

On Saturday, August 3, staff held a storytime at the new farmers market at Station Square Park. Parents and caregivers enjoyed stories and songs outside in the shade. A total of 30 children and caregivers attended.

TEEN PROGRAMMING

Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meeting

On August 5, the TAB Council led the August Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting in the Library Community Room. The meeting provided teen members with updates on volunteering in August. The teens signed up to help with the storytime craft preparation on Tuesday afternoons, and Craft-tastic. The teen members reflected on the last year and took a survey to give their feedback for the upcoming year. The Teen Advisory Board members also took home renewal applications, which are due by the end of September. A total of 16 TAB members attended the meeting.

Laser Tag

The *Teen Laser Tag* event was held on Friday, August 16 after the library closed. Eighteen teens came and played laser tag games throughout the library. 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 come back for Spring Break. A total of 28 teens attended this program.

Pop-up Makerspace for Teens

The *Pop-up Makerspace* for teens was held on Wednesday, August 28 in the Teen Area. Teens were invited to use the portable makerspace cart. This cart has many tools and supplies for making different crafts and art pieces. Teens used the 3D art pen to make 3D sculptures. Maker events can provide teens a space to socialize with like-minded peers and express themselves creatively. A total of four teens attended this program.