



**CITY OF MONROVIA  
LIBRARY BOARD  
AGENDA REPORT**



**DEPARTMENT:** Community Services, Library Division

**MEETING DATE:** February 26, 2026

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

**AGENDA LOCATION:** CC-2

---

**ADULT SERVICES REPORT**

**Winter Adult Craft**

On January 6, the Winter Adult Craft was to sew a small stuffed bear as part of the One City One Story program. Basic instruction on how to thread a needle and make specific stitches were taught. A total of 26 people participated.

**Trivia Night**

The library hosted its monthly trivia night on January 9. Patrons enjoyed refreshments while answering various movie themed trivia questions. The program had 40 attendees.

**Senior Outreach**

On January 9, Adult Services visited Heritage Park Senior Apartments for senior outreach. There were 7 residents who played 7 rounds of Bingo for a chance to win prizes provided by the library. The hot prize was a box of movie theatre flavored popcorn! Library calendars were distributed and staff discussed upcoming One City One Story events.

On January 21, Adult Services staff visited Brookdale Senior Living to facilitate a tech help session. There were four individuals who participated in this monthly program. Staff helped patrons troubleshoot cell phone issues including updates, using applications, messaging friends and phone purchasing options.

On January 5, Adult Services hosted a Game Night for Seniors at Brookdale, a total of 10 participated. Games played included Mahjong, Scrabble Slam and Slapzi.

**Dungeon and Dragons**

Adult Services hosted *Dungeons & Dragons* on January 13. Adventures included haunted libraries, magical pie races, confidence-building quests, and a cult mystery, with several new players joining and many expressing enthusiasm for future sessions. A total of 13 patrons attended the program. On January 31, the Library hosted its first *Dungeon & Dragons 101* program, where participants learned all about the popular tabletop role-playing game. From basic rules to how to run your own game at home, everyone gained the knowledge and confidence to start their first campaigns. All participants received their first set of dice and custom stickers courtesy of the library's Cricut machine. A total of 15 patrons attended the program.

### ***Beginner Vocal Class for Adults and Teens***

On January 17, Adult Services staff partnered with Monrovia Music Academy to offer a Beginner Vocal Class for adults and teens. The program started with some vocal warm-ups and ended up with the group singing two songs simultaneously: *Row, Row, Row Your Boat* and *Brother John* and then, *Oh When the Saints* and *She'll be Coming Around the Mountain*. This session had 7 participants.

### ***Yarn and Fabric Hangout***

On January 20 the library hosted its first Yarn and Fabric Hangout. Sewing machines were available for learning or for projects, and participants brought their own supplies. Patrons worked on crocheting, knitting, cross-stitching, and hemming. All participants expressed interest in attending the program again. The program had four participants.

### ***Game Night for Adults***

Adult Services hosted Game Night for Adults on January 23. Games included the Nintendo Switch 2, Mario Kart Worlds, VR headset, and Jenga. A total of 11 participants attended.

### ***Novel T's Book Club***

On January 27, the Novel T's Book Club met to discuss *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak, the One City, One Story title. The club is looking forward to next month's meeting where they will be discussing *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. A total of 22 attendees participated in this program.

### ***Literacy Services***

In January a total of 101 Learners and Tutors participated in 10 programs. News & Views and Word Workshop continue with weekly meetings, and Book Club continues as a biweekly program. Literacy staff attended a quarterly Southern California Library Literacy Network meeting at Newport Beach Public Library, where regional literacy coordinators discussed the upcoming annual conference in Buena Park, board elections, Family Literacy successes and challenges, and general CLLS announcements. Staff also partnered with Steven Reid of Literacy Volunteers Charlottesville/Albemarle, Virginia to present on best practices for pronunciation instructions at the quarterly Tutor Roundtable.

### ***Veterans Services***

During the month of January the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) had a total of 132 interactions with veterans. County Veterans Service Officer (CVSO) 57; Veteran Peer Access Network (VPAN) 24; and VRC staff 51.

On January 17, the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) proudly hosted a special event at LOOK Cinemas, welcoming 34 veterans and their family members for an exclusive Saturday Matinee screening of *Avatar: Fire and Ash*. The private theater offered a unique opportunity for veterans and their families to spend meaningful time together in a warm, welcoming environment. The afternoon was filled with laughter, connection, and lasting memories. They also took time to remember Mabel Cross and shared in a moment of silence to honor her work with the VRC.

On January 27, there were seven people who gathered for the monthly Veterans Meetup at Starbucks, enjoying friendly conversation and coffee. The discussion covered a variety of topics, including strategies for collaborating with the VRC. Participants also received flyers for upcoming veterans' events in February. There was much enthusiasm for the Paint and Sip program and the ceramics class at Makers and Clay. The group also took time to honor Mabel Cross and recognize her many years of service to the veteran community.

## **YOUTH SERVICES REPORT**

### ***Storytime***

In January, the library's Storytime series continued to engage young children and their families with sessions held on January 7, 14, 21, and 28. Each week focused on an early learning theme, including food, colors, shapes, and opposites. Children ages 2 to 5 enjoyed shared stories, songs, and interactive activities designed to build early literacy skills, encourage language development, and support social interaction in a welcoming group setting. Storytime also provided caregivers with simple, developmentally appropriate ways to reinforce learning at home through reading, music, and play. Total number of attendees was 379.

### ***Barks & Books***

The library's Barks & Books program was held on January 6 and January 20, offering children a welcoming opportunity to practice reading in a relaxed and supportive environment. Through an ongoing partnership with Love on a Leash and Therapy Dogs International, participants read aloud to certified therapy dogs whose calm, nonjudgmental presence helps reduce anxiety and encourages reluctant readers. This positive setting supports the development of reading fluency and confidence while helping children form an enjoyable connection with books. The program also promotes social and emotional growth by nurturing comfort, empathy, and self-confidence. A total of 12 children participated in the program.

### ***Lunar New Year Celebration***

The library's Lunar New Year Celebration took place on Saturday, January 31, welcoming children and families to experience the traditions of this vibrant holiday through music, dance, and hands on activities in celebration of the Year of the Horse. The event featured a Lion Dance performance in the lobby by the Field Elementary Lion Dance Team from Pasadena, bringing energy and excitement to the celebration. Youth Services staff offered cultural activities that allowed families to engage creatively while learning about Lunar New Year customs. In addition, three performers presented demonstrations of the traditional Chinese guqin, an ancient instrument practiced by only about one thousand people worldwide. Their performances highlighted the history, technique, and significance of the guqin, giving families a rare opportunity to experience this art form firsthand. Recognizing the significance of the program, Congressman Gilbert R. Cisneros Jr. attended the event and presented Certificates of Congressional Recognition to both the Monrovia Public Library and the Field Elementary Lion Dance Team, acknowledging their contributions to cultural education and community celebration. Programs such as this encourage cultural understanding, inclusivity, and shared learning experiences for families across the community. A total 200 people attended the celebration.

### ***Storytime with the Park Naturalists***

On Saturday, January 10, the library partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department to present the Storytime with the Park Naturalists program, located at the Monrovia Public Library. Staff shared hibernation-themed stories, songs, and dances, created paper bear masks, and learned about local wildlife. Staff continue to work with the Parks Department to enhance experiences, access, and partnerships within the community. A total of 48 children and caregivers attended.

### ***Pop-Up Makerspace for Kids***

The monthly Pop-Up Makerspace for Kids, is for children ages 6-12 to drop in, experiment, create, and learn using the library's makerspace cart, took place on January 12. The cart features building sets with Magna-Tiles and KEVA Planks, as well a general craft supplies, and specialized STEAM kits to create different types or art pieces. Additional supplies were available upon the creator's request. This open-ended invitation to freely explore, allows children to get hands-on learning experience and the opportunity to practice sharing and social cooperation in a safe and welcoming environment. A total of 18 children and caregivers attended.

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

The library hosted Sensory Friendly Mornings on January 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 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 21 children and caregivers attended.

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

Mini-Vation Lab for toddlers had one program in January. Children between the ages of two and five years old, and their families were invited to learn about chemistry through experimentation with chemical reactions. This program assists in the development of critical thinking, reasoning, and problem solving while nurturing curiosity and imagination. A total of 38 children and caregivers attended.

### ***Baby Storytime***

Baby Storytime is a weekly early literacy program for families with young children ages 0-2 years old. Children and families shared songs, rhymes, stories and activities together to assist in the development of language and literacy. Storytime continues to enhance early literacy by focusing on benefits of talking, reading, singing, writing and playing for young developing minds. A total of 307 children and caregivers attended in January.

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

One Video Game Free Play program for elementary school-aged children was held in January. Attendees played some video games and socialized with other children. This is another opportunity for the library to enhance experiences, access and technology for the community. A total of five attendees participated.

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

The library hosted a LEGO Free Play event in January. During this program, children were able to use their creative skills to build different things while developing fine motor and critical thinking skills while boosting self-confidence. The program offers an opportunity for attendees to engage and bond with their families and other members of the community. A total of 40 children and caregivers attended.

### ***Innovation Lab***

There were two Innovation Lab programs held in January for children ages 6 to 11 years old. The Library partnered with Monrovia High School's Math and Science Academy (MASA) and Wow! That's STEM. The program attendees learned about STEAM-related subject matter, including the Laws of Motion and chemical reactions. This program continues to provide opportunities to enhance access, technology and experiences for school-aged children in Monrovia. A total of 49 children and caregivers attended.

## **TEEN PROGRAMS**

### ***Teen Advisory Board (TAB) Meetings***

The January Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meeting took place on January 6 in the library community room and was led by the TAB Leadership Council. During the meeting, TAB members received updates on volunteering in January. The teens signed up to help prepare crafts for Storytime and at the library's Lunar New Year event. TAB members also signed up to host 2 monthly TAB led events (Teen Game Night and Pop-up Teen Makerspace). A total of 17 TAB members attended the meeting.

### ***Teen Game Night***

The Teen Game Night event was held on Friday, January 16, after the library closed. Teens enjoyed snacks and played Nintendo Switch Games, Beyblades, and board games. The most popular games were Smash Ultimate, Mario Kart, and Nintendo Switch Sports. 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 five teens attended this program.

### ***Pop-Up Makerspace Teens***

The Pop-up Makerspace for Teens was held on Wednesday, January 28 in the Teen Area. Teens used their portable makerspace cart to make earrings, and others used the cart's materials to create their own pins. Crafting events can provide teens a space to socialize with like-minded peers and express themselves creatively. A total of five teens attended this program.