January 2022 Board Report

Alijah Fox

Adult and Teen Programming

After-school programs are still going quite well! LEGO club is by far the most popular, usually getting over 10 kids each time. The other programs don’t get quite as many attendees, but I always have at least one person who shows up for each one.

I have been working on pivoting some teen programs to virtual, through our Discord server. This server is accessible by every teen in the entire library system, and we have about 40 teens so far on it. I’ve been trying to host some game programs through Discord so more kids have the opportunity to play! It seems to be going quite well so far. Because the Olean schools are so unpredictable right now with the virus numbers, it is nice to know that we have the backup of virtual programs!

I have also been working on creating teen versions of popular adult programs in order to appeal specifically to that audience, and leave more room for adults in their programs. I don’t know if I got the word out early enough to the teens for January, because not a lot attended my teen trivia. I am hosting a teen craft night later in the month, so I am excited to see how many attend that!

Adult craft programs are going to pivot to take-home kits once again for a short time. We seem to get very high interaction through those, and we are working with a high demand right now. Our crafting librarian is getting supplies together for February crafts, and judging by the piles of them in my office, they should definitely be good!

To supplement that, I’ve been reaching out to local artists to come to the library and host craft nights. Hopefully this will give the community the chance to choose their preferred format: in person, or take-home.

Our author visit in December had some low numbers, but we are going to keep trying with more local authors! We have another local author visiting later this month, and we have been trying very hard to get the word out to community members. We’ve got a local poet and a local author visiting in February as well. Hopefully we can garner some interest and get people back in the library.

I also created a very low-pressure winter reading program for adults and teens to complete for prizes. I’ve gotten 7 back so far, but we are hoping for more! It goes until the end of January.

Kathy O. and I met with a member of the Quick Center at St. Bonaventure this past week to collaborate on some programs for their Frida Kahlo exhibit! Based on our ideas, it should definitely be an exciting spring!