

Report to the Board

November, 2022

Alijah Fox, Teen and Adult Programming Librarian

This past month, we saw a large number of patrons come out to the Library to participate in Halloween-themed programs.

For our after-school programs, we had steady numbers for the LEGO club, the movie showing, and the Crafternoon.

We had a wide variety of presenters come in to help us celebrate Halloween, including SerenHippity for a craft, a tarot card reader, a self-proclaimed psychic/medium, an illusionist, and the famous Eric Jones for his pumpkin carving tutorial. Every program had great attendance. Going forward, I would like to try to find more ways to theme programs and presentations to relevant holidays and seasons.

Non-Halloween-related programs also did well this past month. Our Brown Bag Book Club is back in full swing, with an average of 6 attendants per meeting but with hopes to attract more soon.

The teen room has seen a dramatic increase in participants, mainly because we decided it was time to reopen the room for Fridays. Since COVID originally hit, we had only kept the room open Monday through Thursday because Friday seemed like a day when most kids were busy. Friday afternoons had actually begun to become an issue with the numbers of teenagers hanging around the building. We have counted over 100 teens in the room since the beginning of November!

The teen-led improvisation class was a smash hit, with each class garnering between 8-10 participants. It was a great way to get the teens to sort of teach themselves. Thank you to Lydia, who spearheaded the effort. We may consider hosting the class again once the holidays are over.

Our teen Dungeons and Dragons groups are a mixed bag. Team A has been religiously attending their sessions for months, but Team B seems to have puttered out. Cherish and I are working together to figure out what we should do: substitute Team B with something else, or just hope that the craziness ends with the ending of the fall.

Related to D&D: A member of the public recently volunteered to help host an adult D&D session, so we are working on the logistics of something like that. We have had lots of interest for an adult group since beginning the teen groups.

Chad and I would like to get some input about potentially using the technology donated from the Boundless Connections tech center. We have recently tested out one of the 3D printers and it does work very well. We have some issues with the other one, which will include replacing a printing head, and we haven't yet decided what software we should get for the large Studio computers. We were thinking that we could allow local patrons to utilize the technology if they bring in their own equipment (i.e., PLA filament) and possibly do some sort of training beforehand. This wouldn't be absolutely ready to go for a few months yet. It is technically for students of the tech center to utilize during their structured class

time, but we are trying to be flexible and use all our resources wisely. Chad and I were thinking of brainstorming about the possible future uses of this technology as part of the strategic planning process.

Also, I recently attended the NYLA conference in Saratoga Springs. I got to meet lots of different librarians from around the state, as well as attend a few valuable sessions to aid in my professional development. I saw a very quick “lightning round” session about utilizing TikTok for teenagers, and a different session about how to help those same teens utilize their thinking skills in a film club-type program. Both were super informative and I definitely feel as though I’ll be incorporating them into my next year of programming.

I attended a session about hosting programs for older adults. This one was super interesting because I don’t have a lot of experience in that area, and therefore could probably do better in creating programs they will enjoy. The presenters gave me lots of great ideas to try with older adults and hopefully get some more attendance with that age group in my programs. Another programming session I attended was a how-to session about hosting large group events. Because we are planning on doing more of those as people become more comfortable with a “post-COVID world”, I thought it would be beneficial to get other perspectives about hosting these events. We don’t have too much space in the library for hosting a lot of people, but it was nice to figure out the logistics of how to potentially do something similar.

I was not registered for the author talk, but I was given a free ticket to see Xochitl Gonzalez, the author of *Olga Dies Dreaming*. It was super interesting to hear about the book (which I had read many months prior, with no knowledge of her attending NYLA) and get her perspective on why libraries were important.

Overall, NYLA was a great learning experience for me, and I am very appreciative of the Board for allowing me to attend. It was a fantastic way to meet new people and gain new professional experiences.