

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2020

Adult Classes and Events

Adult Summer Library Program

Our goal this year was to keep the Summer Library Program simple, fun and rewarding for everyone. We encouraged adults to set their own reading goal and for each week, reading any amount, would earn them a badge on Beanstack. Each badge earned an entry into a weekly prize drawing. Friends' funds provided two weekly Appleton Downtown, Inc. gift cards, as well as two \$50.00 Visa Grand Prize gift cards.

Virtual Art Experience

Artist-in-Residence Craig Clifford, the Head of Ceramics at UW Oshkosh created incredible pieces that each attendee of his series was able to paint and keep. In our first and second sessions, we partnered with the Children's section and hosted two virtual Zoom events for children where we painted Backyard Birds and Windchimes, all handmade by Craig. The third event was geared to adults and we painted incredible vases together virtually. Patrons used curbside pick-up for the ceramics, paints and brush they needed to participate. Friends' funds provided the honorarium and paint for these programs.

Teen Classes and Events

Weekly Teen Take n' Create Packs

This summer, we created 25 weekly take 'n' create packs for teens. Friends' funds were used to purchase materials for these kits which consisted of notebooks, upcycled terrarium kits, DIY bird feeders, shrink art, catapults, and corner bookmarks. Each kit contained items to create these projects. Participants were encouraged to be creative and use upcycled, household items when possible. Video tutorials on YouTube were also created for extra support and engagement.

Summer Library Program – Teen Grand Prizes

We wrapped up the 2020 Summer Library Program! Among the teens who successfully completed the Beanstack reading challenge, three were chosen at random. They each received a book bundle plus a fun mug and beautiful notebook from local vendor Blue Moon Emporium. We wanted to promote the love of reading and help patronize a local business from our vibrant community. Friends' funds were used to pay for the incentives.

Teen Photo Expo

The Teen Photo Expo was a collaboration between APL and UW Madison Extension. It was geared towards fostering creativity and art in a time of uncertainty among our Fox Cities teens. We received 8 entries under 5 specific categories, 1) nature/wildlife, 2) life at home, 3) summer, 4) my neighborhood, my city and 5) macro. Funding by the Friends helped purchase a camera set for the winner of the expo contest.

Tween Classes and Events

Maker Quest Camp

This August we tried a new spin on Maker Quest by turning it into a week-long camp where participants met for one hour per day for a week. Families picked up their box of activities and materials for the week prior to the start date. The K-6th grade students were full of excitement each day as we met via Zoom and led them through STEAM themed projects. Together we made things like floam, sparkling fairy potions, dragon eggs, pop-sockets, kites, yarn turtles, and more. Friends' Funds were used to purchase the special supplies for the activity boxes.

Here is some of the feedback from parents:

"You ladies do a wonderful job! Materials & activities were awesome! I thoroughly appreciate you & all your hard work!"

"It was very well organized and easy to prepare for as a parent. Good interaction between librarians and kids. Always knew how messy it would get in advance so could set technology up in an area that could handle the mess."

Children's Classes and Events

Barely Balanced

Medium from Barely Balanced entertained us with stunts, thrills, comedy, and interactive theater! The kids had a blast watching acrobatics and giggling at the silly jokes. They also got to try their hand at plastic bag juggling and learned some new tricks with popcorn. Attendance was virtual via the Zoom platform. Friends' funds were used for the performer stipend.

David Stokes

The Animal Dude, David Stokes, came to visit as one of the big performers for Children's this year. He gave us exclusive access to a 55-minute show through YouTube, then joined our patrons via Zoom for 2 Q&A sessions. David incorporated live animals, puppets, artifacts, songs, sign-language, and the stories into his video and brought live animals to the Q&A session. One patron loved it SO much that she had to run to her room to grab her own stuffed snake and put it on her head too! Friends' Funds were used for the performer stipend.

Building for Kids Children's Parade

This year's annual Building for Kids Children's Parade was done differently. Families and businesses volunteered to decorate their property and be part of a driving map so families could safely socially distance and see some fun sites. At APL, we shared yard signs of some favorite book characters and created a book list based on those characters. We would like to thank Friends for helping make these decorations happen.

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3rd QUARTER 2020

Summer Library Program Prizes

This year's Summer Library Program included a completion prize of a selection of books for those who participated. The Children's Department wanted to ensure that this prize package included books with children of color to reflect the essential role that literature plays in building positive self-esteem and community reflection. Our Friends generously supported this effort by funding the purchase of books at each reading level for this effort.

STREAM Team Summer Camp

STREAM Team went virtual this summer with a special STREAM Team Summer Camp edition July 20-25. This program was for 3-5-year olds and focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Before the program started, patrons picked up a pack of supplies at the library that included everything they would need for the week of activities. Twenty preschoolers, divided into two groups, met on Zoom each morning for a short storytime and an explanation of the 6 activities for the day. Each day had a theme, water, popsicles, gardening, bugs and favorites. The kids and parents had a blast and we received lots of positive feedback. Friends' funds were used for the special supplies.

"Thank you so much for all of your work on this. It is one of the highlights of our summer. Your work goes above and beyond for this program and providing it at home right now is even harder and you managed to make it look easy but I know the work that goes behind it so thank you again."

"Thank you so much for class this week! Linus and Florence are absolutely loving it. It has been the highlight of each day! Once again, I cannot thank you enough. We were all overwhelmed by the loving care put into the planning of this camp and the boxes. We are so grateful!"

"I wanted to thank you for the wonderful program. I was very impressed with the activities and prepped and organized the kit was!"

September Downtown Storywalk

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local businesses downtown as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public enjoyment. "A Map into the World" written by Kao Kalia Yang is the book on display for the month of September. The story follows a Hmong family who transitions to their new home, neighborhood, and life in America. It coincides with Kao Kalia's virtual author visit in October for Fox Cities Reads. Friends' funds are used to purchase the Storywalk books.

August Downtown Storywalk

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local, small businesses downtown as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public enjoyment. "Drum Dream Girl" written by Maragrita Engle is the book on display for the month of August.

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

3rd QUARTER 2020

The story follows a girl, who desperately wants to pursue music, but faces lots of challenges as only boys can play music on her island. It coincides with ADI's monthly theme of "Your Story".

July Downtown Storywalk

In partnership with ADI, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Chalk* by Bill Thomson. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as storywalk pages. ADI connected with local businesses who posted the pages in their storefront windows. Families who walk downtown will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up from about the third week in July to the third week in August. In addition to the story itself, each page has a written prompt directing families to do actions (roar like a dinosaur, jump into a pretend puddle etc.) or answer questions (What would you draw with orange chalk? What do you think they are feeling?) as they read the story. Friends' funds are used to purchase the Storywalk books.

September Memorial Park Storywalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *How to Take Care of Your Dinosaur* by Jason Cockcroft. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up for the month of September. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

August Memorial Park Storywalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Summer Song* by Kevin Henkes. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up for the month of August. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

July Memorial Park Storytime

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Here Come the Aliens!* by Colin McNaughton to go along Parks & Rec's theme "Alien Invasion" for Children's Week. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up from 7/13 through 8/2. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

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3rd QUARTER 2020

Programs for All Ages

Ongoing Classes, Events and Services

Special Projects

Constant Contact

Friends funds pay for our mass email service provider. We use this service to email our subscribers information about library news, classes, services and more.

Animoto Video Production

Friends funds paid for a year-long subscription to Animoto, an online video production software tool. This software helps staff create videos for promotion of services.

Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position:

This Friends funded, part time non-benefitted position has increased capacity for community engagement and outreach related to individual and community well-being. The new staff member has increased capacity related to Rhythms of the World, National Library Card Sign Up Month, and Kairos Alive Dancing Heart programming, and APL's Small Business – Big Impact initiative.