

Adult Classes and Events

Artist in Residence Curators

The APL Artist in Residence program coordinates a competitive application and selection process to showcase four talented artists per year that present a diverse variety of art media. Our APL staff coordinator works closely with two community curators to recruit new applicants, select the lineup for the upcoming year, and promote artist residencies. Stephanie Harvey is a Wisconsin born visual artist with a passion for promoting the arts who is an advocate for public art and creates opportunities for local artists by connecting them with each other, supporters, and jobs. Ally Wilber is a visual artist and arts advocate who works as Curator of Public Programs for the Museum of Wisconsin Art and Executive Director for the artist nonprofit, Wisconsin Visual Artists. Friends funds supported an honorarium for the two curators.

Artist in Residence - Virtual

Artist in Residence Michelle Sharp, brings her unique experience working for the Building for Kids Children's Museum and love for finding in art in the mundane to our APL participants. The first event was a YouTube video showing how to create mini-zines with old magazines and the second, connected children up to age 12, showing them how to create incredible art from dish soap. Her third event treated adults to a visual tour of the many forms that books can take when you view them as art and expand the definition of what a book really is. All the sessions were held virtually, and patrons used curbside pick-up for the supplies they need to participate. Friends' funds provided the honorarium and paint for these programs.

Find Your Ancestors Series:

Unraveling the Mysteries of your Female Ancestors

We kicked off our Find Your Ancestors series this October with genealogist Mary Risseuw's talk on Unraveling the Mysteries of Your Female Ancestors. While it took a while to transition to a new virtual format, it was well worth the wait for the 63 attendees! Mary first discussed why you may have a harder time finding your female ancestors in records then presented several search strategies and types of records. Attendees thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and shared: "Wow! Really wonderful webinar. Thank you so much!"; "Thank you so much, Mary, what an incredibly informative talk!"; "Excellent Presentation! Thank you," and "Thank you Katie and the Appleton Library for putting this together." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Using Historic Newspapers for Your Genealogical Research

In November, Randi Ramsden from the Wisconsin Historical Society discussed how to use historic newspapers in your genealogy research, what types of information you can find in newspapers to fill in details about your ancestors, as well as several resources for seeing what newspapers are available and how to access them. We had tremendous interest in this program, with more than 220 registrants, 100 virtual attendees, and 84 video views. Because of the success of the program, we upgraded all

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future Find Your Ancestors programs from a Zoom Meeting to a Zoom Webinar to accommodate up to 500 attendees in future sessions. One attendee said, "Thank you! This was great! I have done genealogy research at the Appleton Library and it was one of the best ones! I tell everyone how wonderful your library is." Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Getting Started in Italian Genealogy

For December, we hosted professional genealogist and author Rhonda R. McClure courtesy of New England Historic Genealogical Society. A virtual crowd of 50 listened in as Rhonda gave an extremely informative presentation on how to get started in Italian family history research. Attendees found the presentation very informative and commented on how knowledgeable Rhonda was. We even had international attendees – with one attendee being from Melbourne, Australia, and another from Mexico! Friends provided financial support for this series and an honorarium for this speaker.

Fox Cities Reads

The 14th annual Fox Cities Reads selection was *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* by Kao Kalia Yang and was supported by the National Education Association's Big Read grant initiative. The NEA Big Read: Fox Cities Reads initiative spanned a full year and involved several community partners that led programming and community engagement around the book. Programming included a lecture on Hmong culture, Hmong-American storytelling, Storycatchers virtual storytelling on the theme of "Home," a Hmong story cloth exhibit, book clubs, and three presentations by the author. Community members of all ages learned about Hmong culture, history, and Hmong-American cultural identity. Friends' funds were used for books for library circulation, t-shirts for staff, supplemental programs, and a portion of the author's honorarium.

Small Business – Big Impact: Learn AtoZdatabases in Spanish

Small Business – Big Impact serves people of color and immigrant business owners and entrepreneurs in their business startup, retention, and expansion. Library staff presented a Spanish-language introductory program to business resource database that the library subscribes to and makes available to patrons with a library card. Spanish-speaking program attendees learned how to use the tool to conduct market research to start and grow their business. Friends funds paid for text translation for marketing the program in Spanish.

Teen Classes and Events

Teen Holiday Grab n' Go Kits

Teen services staff teamed up with a local business, The Fire, to spread some early holiday cheer! Friends funds were used to purchase complete kits which included clay plates, paint glazes, brushes, and instructions. Within an hour of opening the RSVP list, all 25 kits were claimed! The teen and family participation were overwhelmingly positive and exciting for these Grab n' Go Kits, with one parent sharing, "Thank you [for this]!!! My girls are so excited for this! Something to look forward to right now!"

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Virtual Teen Photo Expo - Fall Edition

The Teen Photo Expo was a collaboration between APL and UW Madison Extension. The themes for the Photo Expo contest were thankful, colorful, spooky and comforting. The contest was open to teens ages 11-18 throughout the Fox Cities. We received 25 incredible photo entries which were all featured in a virtual photo gallery! Friends Funds were used to create a fun prize package which included a photo scrapbook, art supplies and books to further help cultivate the winner's talent in photography.

Tween Classes and Events

Maker Quest - Take & Make - October

Maker Quest continues to be a popular program! For this school year, we have changed the formatting. It is now offered once per month as a two-part program that is split by grades K-2 and 3-6. First, students register and pick up a STEAM-themed project kit with instructions from the library. Participants then make the project on their own. Next, they are invited to meet with us on Zoom a week later for a Show & Tell session where they all show their projects, and we discuss what worked or did not work with their creations. The kids are loving it!

In October, the K-2 crowd made their own bouncy balls, and the 3-6 students grew their own crystals. Super fun chemical reactions for all!

Maker Quest - Take and Make - November

November was a great time for Maker Quest! The STEAM-theme for this month focused on art. Our K-2nd grade participants made a pour painting project, and our 3rd-6th grade participants made comic book art. Creativity flourished and the students had a great time. Canvases and art supplies would not be possible without the help from our Friends. Thank you so much!

Maker Quest - Take and Make - December

Just like the elves, December's Maker Quest participants got to create some toys! Students from grades kindergarten-2nd made some fuzzy face pencils (remember those from the 90s?). The 3rd-6th grade group had a project that was a bit more challenging. They made infinity cubes using eight blocks of wood and some sticky-backed vinyl.

Fall STREAM Team

Fall STREAM Team ran for 8 weeks in October and November. This program was for 3-5-year olds and focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Patrons picked up a pack of supplies before the program started and then picked up a second box halfway through the program that included everything they would need for 8 weeks of activities. Twenty-four preschoolers, divided into three groups, met on Zoom each Thursday for a short storytime and an explanation of the 6 activities for the day. Each week had a theme: weather, fairy tales, fall, pumpkins, Halloween, space,

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dinosaurs, and food. The kids and parents had a blast and we received lots of positive feedback. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

Mischief and Magic 12/12/20

Originally scheduled to present summer magic shows, Mischief & Magic joined us this December to teach families how to do magic tricks over Zoom. The Morning program focused on basic magic tricks that could be done by the whole family.

The Afternoon program focused on card tricks for middle to upper elementary students. Both programs were well attended with the morning program reaching capacity & the afternoon program almost full. It was fantastic to see so many families sitting around their tables learning magic tricks with Mr. Mischief. Friends' funds provided a stipend for Mischief & Magic as well as providing magic card and trick supplies for participating families.

Caravan to Candyland

The Children's Department was excited to join Parks and Rec in their Halloween celebration called Caravan to Candyland at Memorial Park. Participants registered for a timeslot and got to experience drive-thru trick or treating. Each organization was tasked with developing a creative way to distribute candy to vehicles from 6 feet away. We used poles with buckets at the end to hand out gummy worms, gooey eyeballs, Sixlets, and Magic Treehouse booklets. It was a very "sweet" evening for all! Friends' funds were used to purchase the candy.

October Downtown Storywalk

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. *Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* written by Kevin Noble Maillard was the book on display for the month of October. The story follows Native American families as they enjoy the act of baking fry bread together. Readers begin to learn that fry bread is more than just a traditional food for them; it carries a lot of history and brings unity within the community.

December & November Downtown Storywalk

Children's Services is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. *Flash and Gleam: Light in Our World* written by Sue Fliess is the book on display for the months of November & December. The story introduces various forms of light and cultural traditions of light from around the world. The book was specifically chosen to coincide with ADI's Light Up Appleton Festival that highlights different cultural traditions of light during the holiday season.

Memorial Park StoryWalk - October

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Thanks for Thanksgiving* by Julie Markes. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built

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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 was up for the month of November. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

December & January Memorial Park StoryWalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *The Wish Tree* by Kyo Maclear and Chris Turnham. 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 is up for the months of December and January. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

Programs for All Ages

Fox Cities Book Festival - Virtual

The Fox Cities Book Festival was presented virtually and maintained its "one community, one day" format where each participating community hosted all of their programs on one day. APL staff hosted ten virtual author programs for the public, one virtual author visit with area schools, one Facebook live chat with an author, and co-hosted additional programs in collaboration with other area libraries to support streaming technology and virtual moderating. Attendees learned about authors' inspiration, writing process, publishing experiences, and book content. Authors were pleased with their experiences and virtual exposure. Friends' funds were used for honorariums for the authors.

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 staff member has increased capacity related to Rhythms of the World, National

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Library Card Sign Up Month, and Kairos Alive Dancing Heart programming, and APL's Small Business – Big Impact initiative.

Animal Flashcards for ARTR

Children's Services purchased sets of animal flashcards titled, Zoosi, to giveaway to ARTR Hmong families. In 2016, we purchased 50 sets at regular price of \$20. This year, the artist had a 50% off sale, so we restocked and purchased 20 more copies. Hmong families rave about the flashcards as they are a fun and interactive way to build vocabulary and encourage literacy at home. And it is pretty cool that they are designed and made by a Hmong artist! Thank you, Friends.