

Adult Classes and Events

Flipside Concert Series

Our goal with this concert series is to highlight our FlipSide collection musicians, increase visibility for local musicians, provide access to local live music, and promote our FlipSide streaming service. During the second quarter of 2020, we hosted Evan Meulemans virtually, from his home in New York. Eric played a solo acoustic which was posted on Facebook and will continue to be available on the APL YouTube channel for future viewing. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for the artist.

Spanish & Hmong Instructional Videos

Four different instructional videos were created in Hmong and Spanish to teach, transfer knowledge, and show adults how to use different online resources. The different videos focused on how to create an e-mail in Hmong and Spanish, how to use social media in Hmong, and how to apply for unemployment in Hmong. The videos were shared widely with community organizations and reached over 1K views on APL's YouTube Channel. Friends' funds provided an honorarium for the instructors.

Meditation Mondays

During our closure and in these unique and challenging times, Joy Jordan worked to remind us we are in this together. Every Monday from April through the end of May, Joy Jordan provided audio Meditation prompts on timely topics: "Refuge from Information overload," "Working with fear and anxiety," and "Moving forward with intention." Each session was accompanied by deeper learning guides on Joy's website as well as a curated book list on Infosoup. These audio programs will continue to be available on the APL YouTube channel. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for this program.

Virtual Art Experience

2021 Artist-in-Residence Wendi Turchan created a digital art program for tween-adults, highlighting accessible techniques that anyone can use and supplies that we can find right in our recycling bin. This program showcased that art is something we can find all around us. The "Inchie Art" program was shared on Facebook and remains on our APL YouTube channel for future viewing. Friends' funds provided the honorarium for the artist.

Teen Classes and Events

30-Day Teen Kindness and Wellness Challenge

The Challenge consisted of a 30-day calendar filled with activities based on kindness/self-care activities as well as library resource exploration. Examples of these included writing a thank you note to a postal worker, doing yoga, or downloading an audiobook. Participants sent us pictures of their projects – one teen completed all 30 days and created an amazing photo diary of her many adventures. Friends' funds were used to purchase two \$25 gift cards for the winners.

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At-Home Watercolor Art Therapy for Teens and Families

Kay Church from the Boys and Girls Club, Home Base (formerly Runaway and Homeless Youth Services) brought her art skills into the homes of our youth and families by creating a watercolor art therapy video. Before the library closure, Kay was slated to visit our library to lead an in-house class where Friends' funds were used to purchase watercolor palettes for our teens. Our plan is to reschedule this class in the future and continue supporting the arts among our youth.

Teen Poetry Contest

APL celebrated Poetry Month with a Teen Poetry Contest. Teens were instructed to create an original poem of their own choosing and include a short video of them reciting their work. Common themes that arose from the poems included hope and acceptance. The winner was announced through a wonderful video compilation created by OWLS staff. Friends' funds were used to purchase a \$50 gift card for the grand prize winner; all contestants received an APL-branded water bottle.

Weekly Teen Take n' Create Packs

This year, we are giving away 25 weekly take 'n' create packs for teens during the summer. Friends' funds were used to purchase materials for these kits which consist of notebooks, upcycled terrarium kits, DIY bird feeders, shrink art, catapults, and corner bookmarks. Each kit contains items to create these projects, participants are encouraged to be creative and use upcycled, household items when possible. Teens are welcome to share their creations to foster engagement.

Young Adult/Teen Survey 2020 Initiative

This short survey will ask about teen services at APL, challenges in attending library programs, teen interests, and will also introduce information about our future Teen Advisory Board (TAB). In addition, this is a great opportunity for feedback on current and future teen programming. Friends' funds were used to translate this survey into Spanish and Hmong by Fox Valley Communications, LLC. A "soft launch" is in the works, hard copies will be distributed to our patrons once we reopen.

Tween Classes and Events

Colossal Fossils

Dino Dave with Colossal Fossils did a wonderful job as one of our big summer performers this year. His show brought history to life with wooly mammoth bones, strange looking skulls, shark teeth, dinosaur bones, and some awesome surprises. While this was originally planned as an in-person program, it took place virtually instead. This was made possible with the purchase of the Be.Live streaming program. Thank you to our Friends for this opportunity! Friends' Funds were used to pay a stipend to Colossal Fossils as well as the Be.Live Streaming subscription.

Colossal Fossils also did an evening program with the ELL families we serve through Zoom. The kids had so much fun learning about different cultural myths and dinosaur fossils. A mom sent a text saying, "My boy really enjoyed the program. He cannot stop

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talking about it. Thank you for doing all that you do!" This same boy was able to show his collected fossils to be identified by Colossal Fossils. The program was a great balance of education and fun!

Children's Classes and Events

Choose Your Own Adventure Live Storytime

The Children's team has started a weekly Facebook Live - Choose Your Own Adventure Storytime. Kids can listen along at home and then participate in choosing which path the story will take by voting in the comment section. We take the path with the most votes and see where it leads us. Thank you to Friends for providing funding for some of these books!

Downtown Storywalk

In partnership with ADI, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Undefeated* by Kadir Nelson and Kwame Alexander. 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 the third week in June to the third week in July. In addition to the story itself, each page has a QR code directing families to additional resources for parents and children.

Memorial Park Storywalk

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Explorers of the Wild* by Kade Atkinson. 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 6/22 through 7/12. The story will be changed out every 2 weeks throughout the summer and monthly the rest of the year. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten Prizes

This year-round reading program encourages parents to read 1000 books to their children before they enter kindergarten. April – June, 3 children registered for the program. Friends' funds are used to purchase prizes for every 100 books read.

500 Books Before Middle School:

This year-round reading program encourages students from grades K-6th grade to continue the habit of reading. April – June, 4 children registered for this program. Friends' funds are used to purchase prizes for every 50 books read.

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.

Outdoor Signage

Friends funds paid for outdoor signage for promotion of various services during the closure of the building.

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.

Activity Kits for Circulation

More activity kits for children will start to circulate this year! These STEAM focused kits each include books and fun items such as robots and big soft dinosaurs. For the kits to circulate efficiently they required luggage tags for labeling and some needed oversized bags for storage. Thanks to our Friends, these materials have been purchased.

Community Partnerships – Library Assistant Position:

This Friends funded, part time non-benefitted position has increased capacity for community engagement, outreach, direct service, and grant funding related to job skill and workforce development. While direct service is on hold due to the pandemic, staff continue to build capacity for service and coordinate and implement outreach and engagement to create visibility for library resources. Staff partnered with the POINT \$18/hour Task Force, WI DWD, LEAVEN, and Forward Services to create a multilingual (English, Spanish, Hmong) job needs assessment survey to understand barriers to employment and inform agency services. Staff successfully secured \$2,000 through the Libraries Build Digital Skills grant sponsored by Google and are applying for additional grant funding. Additionally, staff contributed to the development of APL's Small Business-Big Impact initiative.

Explore Fox Cities

Explore Fox Cities offers library card holders the chance to visit area attractions, cultural institutions, and performances for free. The pass expanded beyond FAN (Fox Arts Network) Pass in February to allow for other offers, from the Weis Science Museum and Bubolz Nature Preserve. Although pass distribution is temporarily on hold this summer, staff have remained in communication with partners and are planning for future distribution. Friends' funding supported the initial display and were used to add a large sign above the display.