

**Community Chords: Engagement through Music and Art** is funded by a grant received through WiLS Ideas to Action fund and celebrates Hmong American Day on May 14. It is a time to recognize and remember Hmong people's stories, history, and contribution in the Vietnam War. The project highlights Hmong narratives and skills and brings everyone together through a shared love of music, art, and literacy - all components that make Appleton a thriving community.

Five selected artists were chosen to reinvent donated pianos and these pianos will be placed at host locations throughout the community during the month of May. Stayed tuned for more information & visit [apl.org/communitychords](http://apl.org/communitychords) for videos of the artists and more background on their designs.

In addition, a variety of Hmong professionals will be leading workshops during the month of May on music, art & literacy. These programs are funded through a combination of Friends Funds, city funds and the East Asia in Wisconsin Grant.

### **Girls Who Code**

Girls Who Code began on January 27<sup>th</sup> and wrapped up on April 14<sup>th</sup>. None of the participants knew each other when the program began, and it has been amazing to watch the friendships blossom especially in the virtual realm. The girls have been working in Scratch and will be able to stay connected through that platform and share projects after the program ends. In addition to their “assignments” for class, the girls had begun to create independent projects and were having fun sharing those with the group as well.

### **Patron Feedback**

Conversations from the Children’s Desk:

A patron said that the library programs have been great for both of her kids but especially for her daughter this year. Her daughter was starting to turn more into herself and get quieter because kids were picking on her at school. Through the library programs, she sees her gaining more and more confidence again. She loves Busy Bags, Maker Quest, Kids Cooking, and Graphic Novel Book Club. In fact, she said that during Graphic Novel Book Club last week her daughter was talking and laughing so much that the mom and her husband looked at each other like, “Is that our kid?” She also said that Tuesday is sharing day at school and almost every week she shares something that she’s done at one of our programs. They just make her so happy! Further(!), she said that through MQ and Busy Bags her daughter now knows how to read and follow directions. She said that she wanted to make sure that we know what we do really matters. (And “hi” to Miss Teresa from her son as well. He LOVED STREAM Team!)

The second interaction took about 15 minutes and the patron shared what a “life-saver” the library has been this last year. She said that the Book Packs are amazing and that she thinks they’ve researched just about every animal by now. She said that even when patrons could browse, she never had the time to search for books on all the topics the kids liked because she was busy chasing them all over the library. She will continue to use that service. She also mentioned how much they all love the project programs – Busy Bags, STREAM, and Maker

Quest. The kids all help each other out with their various projects and have SO much fun crafting and creating all the time. The Kids Cooking Series was also a big hit with their family and they can't wait until the Baking Series starts. She said she loved having Monday night dinner all planned out for her. 😊

### **Feedback from the Virtual Korean Mask Workshop with Seonjoo So Oh**

Hi Betsy,

Here are the pictures of the masks [we] finished yesterday. They both had such a wonderful time on Saturday! Thank you so much for letting [us] participate.

These programs that you are putting on are so wonderful and greatly appreciated!! I can't tell you how excited we were to open the take home box from the last program and found rhythm sticks. Thank you for those!

Navigating remote learning is hard, but having programs like these available is a lift academically and emotionally. I have a strong science background and no talent for music, so everything you have done to teach [us] about music, art, or different cultures is so helpful.

You and the other children's department librarians are their first teachers. I could not have asked for better ones. Thank you for all your hard work!



## Feedback on Kits ([apl.org/kits](http://apl.org/kits))

Hello!

I really need to thank someone!!! I am not sure if this email should go to you or if you could be so kind as to pass it along.

I came to the library last week to pick up some books. I had to come check out the children's area because my family absolutely loves it there. It looks AMAZING! I also noticed the activity bags! The wonderful desk staff said I could take up to 4 bags for a whole month!!! I was like a giddy little school girl again!! I ended up taking 2 bags. The infant 1 bag, which includes the balls and rattles and the colors 2 bag with the dinosaurs and rainbow arches.

I was so excited to bring them home! My children were SO excited to play with them. I appreciate the effort in putting these together, I know it wasn't easy or fast!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for allowing families to have more options and extending those options as they relate to books! I pray that families utilize them and take care of them, returning them as they were.

I attached a few pictures, I hope you don't mind :)

