

TEEN SERVICES LIBRARIANS MEETING

November 13, 2019 from 1-3 PM at Cody Branch Library

IN ATTENDANCE: Georgina Garcia (Bazan), Julia Pouliot (Brook Hollow), Amy Rae Weaver (Cody), Daniella Toll (Collins Garden), Desmond London (Great Northwest), Edward Mayberry (Guerra), Laura Herman (Igo), Cristine Mitchamore (Johnston), Rebekah Corley (Landa), Mary Lou Bleichwehl (Maverick), Emily Young (Mission), Sheri Watkins (Pruitt @ Roosevelt), Kimberly King (Thousand Oaks), Cindy Cruz (Westfall), Jennifer Velasquez (Coordinator of Teen Services), Kathleen Fordyce (Teen Library @ Central), Matthew Loaiza (Teen Library @ Central)

ABSENT: Connie Hejl (Las Palmas), Chris Castillo (Parman @ Stone Oak), Karah Garcia (Tobin @ Oakwell)

LOCATION TOUR : CODY

- Amy Rae gave the group a tour of the Cody Branch Library, which was renovated in mid-2018. The Teen Space is now next to popular teen materials such as graphic novels and anime movies, with lots of display decorating the space. New carpet was put in the area as well as new furniture, including charging towers, tables, and chairs.
- A “Teens Only from 3:30 to close” sign is posted on a pillar outside the area; Amy Rae commented that she previously had plastic signs on the tables as well, but these were often moved by other patrons or broken. Amy Rae is considering taping signs onto the tables to prevent this. Amy Rae also commented that it is often hard to enforce this rule with adult patrons because table space is limited at Cody.
- Afterwards, the group discussed issues/areas of improvement for the space such as:
 - Creating a buffer with furniture and making it more apparent with visual cues that patrons are entering a different space within the library.
 - Rearranging/balancing out furniture between work/lounge atmosphere to make the space more inviting to teens and less inviting to adults.
 - Open up more wall space for teens to take ownership of the space and display their artwork/creations from programs.
- The group also discussed the issue of gaining support from coworkers, especially with enforcing “Teens Only” hours in Teen Spaces:
 - Consistency is the most important thing; when coworkers do not enforce the space rules consistently, it becomes a customer service issue (“Why did Staff Person A let me work here and now Staff Person B isn’t letting me?”)
 - If using a shared open space (such as a meeting room), it is imperative to put your programs on Trumba so that the public knows the space will be used at that time and also so you can direct patrons to look at the calendar to plan ahead.

- **If you are having issues with your coworkers in relation to these types of issues, please contact Jennifer.**

YALSA Symposium (Daniella)

- Daniella attended the YALSA Symposium in Memphis, TN in early November. Daniella offered some takeaways from the Symposium:
 - Overall, the Symposium was great. There were many people who were open-minded and encouraging about working with teens. All presenters were also willing to freely share their information (emails, presentations, etc.).
 - One presentation that Daniella really enjoyed focused on training your staff to interact with teens (Daniella will email the presenter's presentation out to the group later). The presentation discussed the teen brain and how some coworkers have difficulty understanding why teens act certain ways, which is often because their brains are still developing. There was also a quiz that helped illuminate how people unconsciously treat teens differently than adults. Staff should also aim to help teens understand that the space is theirs and should be respected by them, rather than making the teens feel like they are battling against staff at the library.
- **Daniella was able to attend through the Library's travel policy (LAD 22.10 Library Travel). If you are interested in doing something similar in the future, reach out to Organizational Health for more information.**

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Teen Summer 2020
 - Jennifer offered some details about Teen Summer 2020. The overarching theme is "Imagine," and all three Coordinators have started meeting with the Graphic Designers team to discuss the branding for each division. Bibliotech is interested in partnering with us next summer and will be distributing logs for the summer programs at their locations.
 - **The lead for the Teen Summer Workgroup is Julia; if you have any ideas for theme boxes already, please send them her way.**
- Teen Arts Fest
 - Teen Arts Fest is happening this coming Saturday November 16, from 11 AM to 4 PM at Central. **If you are available to help, let J.D. and Georgina know.**
- Mini Maker Faire SA
 - Daniella is officially the new lead for the Mini Maker Faire, which will happen on March 21, 2020 (the 6th year of the event!). Although there are not many details yet, Daniella is searching for anyone interested in joining the workgroup. Specifically, there is a need for people who are interested in:

- Using social media to advertise the event
 - Assisting with logistical details for the event
 - Contacting new sponsors/partners/donors for the event
 - Coordinating volunteers for the event
 - **Email Daniella if you are interested in joining the workgroup in any of these areas, or if you're just interested in general.**
- LOST (Library Off-site Services for Teens)
- Matthew gave a brief overview of recent LOST opportunities:
 - During **National Coming Out Day** (Friday, October 11 at Mission Marquee Plaza), LOST gave out t-shirts, books, LGBTQ-themed buttons, and offered photos with the Simple Booth.
 - For **International Pronouns Day** (Tuesday, October 10 at Fiesta Youth and Wednesday, October 16 at Pruitt @ Roosevelt), LOST partnered up with Fiesta Youth to provide information on pronouns and to make customized pronoun buttons.
 - At **Nerdvana Con** (Saturday, November 9 at Stevens High School), LOST provided six different simultaneous activities: button making, cosplay repair, Simple Booth photos, virtual reality, a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate free play area, and a Super Smash Bros. Ultimate tournament.
 - Matthew also provided some upcoming LOST opportunities:
 - **NOH8 Photo Shoot (Fiesta Youth)**
 - Sunday, November 17 from 1 PM to 5 PM
 - At Bonham Exchange
 - LOST will showcase a sample of LGBTQ+ books that were donated by Fiesta Youth, as well as provide a pronoun button making activity.
 - **YUMiCON**
 - Saturday, November 30 from 10:30 AM to 7:30 PM
 - At HBG Convention Center
 - LOST will provide free play gaming (Super Smash Bros. Ultimate) and photo ops with the Simple Booth.
 - **If you are able to help out with either of these upcoming opportunities, contact Matthew.**

JUVENILE WEEDING

- More stickers were ordered, but we still have not received them. As soon as they arrive, they will be sent out to everyone.

- Amy Rae mentioned that over 500 materials have been identified, which is amazing. Some people are also going beyond the suggested starting points (such as including history, crafts, etc.) which is also exciting.
- If you are having trouble making a call on whether a book should be juvenile or young adult, a helpful tip is to look up the book on Amazon or GoodReads to find a suggested age range.

MAJOR ISSUES FACING TEEN SERVICES AT SAPL

- The group briefly discussed major issues facing Teen Services. Some takeaways include:
 - We are here to serve the public, regardless of who they are. This includes teens! We need to ensure that all staff are onboard with this.
 - The “Fine Free” pilot program is a good start, but it is not enough. Old cards with old fines are a major issue, especially for teens who maybe did not know their parent or guardian created/used their card when they were younger. This blocks kids and teens who grow up and try to get a card but are denied. Fines are a deterrent to many groups of people, not just teens.
 - Unfilled positions systemwide (including Teen Services Librarian positions) cause a major disruption of service, especially when consistent programming cannot be provided because of staff shortages. The lack of upward mobility for Teen Services Librarians is also a major issue, because it causes great Teen Services Librarians to leave Teen Services in order to advance in the system.

NEXT MEETING

- Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 11 from 1-3 PM** at the Teen Library @ Central for our annual holiday potluck! More details to follow. Kathleen and Matthew (#Mathleen #Kathew) will be hosting as Jennifer will be out.

ACTION ITEMS

GAINING SUPPORT FROM COWORKERS REGARDING TEEN SPACES

- If you are having issues with your coworkers in relation to enforcing teen space hours, etc, please contact Jennifer.

LIBRARY TRAVEL

- If you are interested in traveling to professional development opportunities such as conferences, reach out to Organizational Health for more information.

TEEN SUMMER 2020 : THEME BOX IDEAS

- If you have any ideas for Teen Summer 2020 theme boxes, send them to Julia.

TEEN ARTS FEST

- If you can help out with TEen Arts Fest (Saturday, November 16), let J.D. / Georgina know.

MINI MAKER FAIRE 2020

- Email Daniella if you are interested in joining the workgroup.

LOST in NOVEMBER

- Email Matthew if you can help out with the NOH8 Photo Shoot (Sunday, November 17) or YUMiCON (Saturday, November 30).