



REPORT TO THE LIBRARY BOARD

MAY 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Staff Activity & Community Impact Report

PURPOSE: For information

PREPARED BY: Senior Team

PRESENTED BY: Michael Ciccone – CEO and Chief Librarian

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board receive the May *Staff Activity & Community Impact Report* for information purposes.

BACKGROUND

This document provides a mechanism for Senior Team to share information updates with the Board and is produced for each meeting of the Board.

Events, Programs, and Services of Note.....	2
From the Community.....	3
News from Departments.....	4
From the Media.....	5
Upcoming Events and Programs.....	5
CEO Report.....	5

Events, Programs, and Services of Note

Dabble Lab 2.0

Dabble Lab, a drop-in family program with a maker/tech focus, ran every Saturday from 2-4 pm throughout April. The final program attracted 51 patrons to the Lambeth Branch building a structure that elevated all the animal toys off the floor and saved them from the lava below. At other events, families could create, make and build a different activity ranging from building a catapult, drawing like Michelangelo, and balancing a marble on top of a golf tee.

Earthfest

This event was in partnership with several London organizations and was hosted at the Central Library, Citi Plaza and Dundas Place. There were over 100 exhibitors and artists, various workshops and had an attendance of over 2000 people!

Partnership with Western Libraries

The Library had the opportunity to partner with Western Libraries on a variety of programs over the past year:

- In September 2022, the Library outreach team attended two fall welcome events, spoke to over 175 students about library resources and services and issued over 50 library cards.
- On September 29, 2022, we collaborated on an Indigenous Collections pop-up event in the new community room in Weldon Library. The Library outreach team had a pop-up collection of books from the Indigenous Reads Spotlight list as well as Every Child Matters buttons and posters. Western Library staff highlighted books from Indigenous authors in their academic-focused collection. Over 70 students/faculty members attended this event.
- During the winter of 2023, Library staff attended an International Student Orientation event in January and spoke with 30 students about Library services and resources.
- The Library also partnered with Western libraries and Western's Beyond the Books Club to help facilitate two author talk programs at the university that were open to the general public. The first event, which occurred in February, featured local London author, Laurie Elizabeth Flynn, who spoke about a variety of topics such as tips for writing a novel and her publishing journey. The March event featured a panel of three authors: George Elliott Clarke, Valerie Mills-Milde, and Anthony De Sa.

We are hoping to build on the success of this partnership throughout the 2023 – 2024 academic year!

I Know I Must Move

This program featured four speakers focusing on older adults and aspects of downsizing; moving to long-term care or a retirement home or apartment; estate planning, healthcare, de-cluttering, real estate, etc. Presented in partnership with *Third Age Outreach*, the City of London (Senior Satellite coordinator), and *Over 55 Skills at Work*. Sixty participants attended in person at Kiwanis Seniors Centre and online.

June 6 Commemoration of Our London Family

As part of the June 6 Commemoration Committee, the Library participated in a collaborative art project at four Branches (Masonville, Cherryhill, Byron, and Central) in April. Patrons were invited to write a message of love and hope on the hexagons provided. The hexagons will be placed together as an art piece and displayed at Museum London from June to December.

From the Community

Bostwick: Hosting Oneida History & Culture Display

The Bostwick Branch is currently hosting a display created by Grade 5/6 students at the Standing Stone School at Oneida. It was wonderful to see the reactions of Saunders Secondary School Oneida students when they saw the display in Bostwick's space. A family, who visited from Oneida, ended up getting Library cards and borrowed items! Bostwick Staff saw in action how reflecting diverse communities in LPL spaces and collections creates a welcoming environment.

Central: Feedback from Happy Patrons

- We received the following comment from a community partner: "I just feel there is SO MUCH the library offers for not only our clients but also my colleagues ... the library is such an awesome community place and I want to help encourage more and more of my colleagues and our clients to engage!"
- After a class visit, a teacher sent the following message: "Thank you so much for the wonderful job search presentation and tour. My students and I had so much fun and learned much from you and the library facilities. They are looking forward to returning to the library on their own. On the next trip, I will also include some other classes because of how important the information you are presenting is."
- *Culturx*, our partners for Spanish Storytime program, sent a thank you to the staff: "Thank you and the London Public Library for your ongoing support to *Culturx*. Please feel free to share this with your colleagues as a success for last year. We are happy to continue working closely again this year!"

- After sending some Personal Picks to a patron, they happily responded, “Thank you for your book recommendations - I have been enjoying some of the books you recommended and I look forward to reading others.”
- Word of mouth is bringing people to the Creative Labs! A couple who took Intro to the Memory Lab told me their friend was raving about the great services in the space. Participants in the program expressed great appreciation for the technology and its possibilities.

Cherryhill: Library Settlement Partnership Expansion

This month, Cherryhill Branch Library became the Library’s seventh service point for the Library Settlement Partnership (LSP). The LSP includes on-on-one settlement services to help newcomers get started in Canada and in the City of London.

Landon Wifi Hotspot Gratitude

A patron thanked staff at the Landon Branch for offering her free access to a reliable Internet connection from home using a Library wifi hotspot which she used to apply for a job. She let the Staff know how great it was to use the hotspot from home since she cannot afford to pay for Internet service and now nice it was to be able to do some things at home when the library is closed! She left the library saying, “Thank goodness for the library!”

Pond Mills: International Day of Pink Display

A patron was singing the praises of Pond Mills Branch for their International Day of Pink display. Day of Pink is a worldwide anti-bullying and anti-homophobia event held annually in April. They were so happy to see the information and appreciated the branch for showing allyship and standing in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA + communities!

News from Departments

Volunteer Services

There are currently 15 new volunteers in training. Library volunteers supported the very successful Earthfest program held on Saturday April 22 at the Central Library. Volunteers were also busy supporting the Wolf Performance Hall with ushering events, ESL reading groups, mentoring, and more. Our Tech Tutors are currently supporting 11 of our branch locations.

Feedback from Volunteers: I very much appreciate the certificate of thanks with the lovely message from my ESL conversation partner, DJ. He told me that in South Korea libraries are just libraries lending books. In London, he has observed that libraries are

meeting the needs of their communities with exercise, music, art/crafts groups, tech support, employment skills, settlement services, etc.

CEO Report

Whole of Community System Response

The City of London has been gathering representatives from across sectors over the past few months to create a framework for a collective response to the issues of Health and Homelessness.

Along with many other organizations, the Library has signed a statement of commitment that embraces the Whole-of-Community System Response developed by the City, and will evolve with it over time.

From the Media

[Hexagon project aims to keep Afzaal family's memories alive and combat Islamophobia.](#) CBC News. Apr. 18, 2023.

[London hosting biggest Earth Day event in the nation.](#) London NewsToday.ca. Apr. 19, 2023.

[Earthfest in London may be Canada's biggest Earth Day event.](#) London Free Press. Apr. 20, 2023.

[Violence in libraries is on the rise across Canada.](#) How London, Ont. Is responding. Global News. Apr. 25, 2023

[London's Pretty Cool.](#) Spotify. May 4, 2023.

Upcoming Events and Programs

June 1 on: Creative Age Series

Starting June 1 and running throughout the summer at various library locations, will be Creative Age programs for adults 55 and older that will focus on new skills development and social connections. This Creative Age Series is funded by the New Horizons for Seniors federal grants and contributions program that provides funding for projects that make a difference in the lives of seniors and in their communities.

June 3: Landon Branch: Gathering on the Green

Landon Branch staff are looking forward to the annual Gathering on the Green, presented by the Old South Community Organization (OSCO) on Saturday, June 3. This is a day full of music, children's activities, community exhibitors, and fun in Wortley Village.

June 3: Join the Club

On Saturday June 3 from 10-1pm at the Central Library drop in and find out about clubs and organizations that are involved with arts and crafts, science and nature, service and recreation. All ages are invited.

June 10: Wortley Pride

Programming and Outreach Services staff will attend Wortley Pride, located on the Green in Wortley, on Saturday, June 10. Staff will bring a Cricut machine and connect with members of the public while they make rainbow flowers and pins.

June 19-August 28 TD Music Mondays (Rotary Reading Garden)

The TD Music Monday will launch June 19 as part of London Music Week. The lunch time music program is funded by TD Canada and is supported by the London Music Office. Each lunch time concert will feature a different local musician.

June 24: TD Summer Reading Club Launch

This year's TD Summer Reading Club will start on Saturday, June 24. In advance of the launch, librarians across the system will be visiting schools to promote summer reading and connect kids with the library for the summer months.

July 15: Volunteer Fair

The Library's second Volunteer Fair of 2022 will be held at the Central Library from 10-2 pm with over 40+ organizations participating.