

SLS Children's Services Meeting

March 4, 2024 | Orange Public Library

In attendance: Nissa and Kim (Anaheim); Nhung (OCPL); Annika (Newport Beach); Ruth (Buena Park); Lauren (Mission Viejo); Lupita (Santa Ana); Laura (Huntington Beach); Lucy (Yorba Linda); Gina (Fullerton); Andrea (Orange)

Meeting called to order at 10:09 A.M.

Rotation of Officers

The rotation of officers for May 2024 – April 2025 will be done alphabetically by library name. The position of chair will pass to Margaret Hatanaka (Placentia Public Library) as chair and Keithley Hale (Fullerton Public Library) as secretary/note-taker.

Discussion regarding the coordination of the Showcase took place. Having Showcase coordination incorporated into the role of Chair, particularly if the Chair is new to the SLS group, can be too much. A suggestion to create a subcommittee for Showcase coordination was proposed to help better distribute SLS committee responsibilities.

A subcommittee of five members will be created to handle Showcase coordination: the current year location host, the previous year's location host, the SLS Children's Services Chair, an experienced member of the Committee, and the "banker," aka whoever creates the registration/payment page.

Performer Showcase Recap

Putting all of the various documents together in a single, widely accessible PDF for the team would be ideal for future coordination.

If the event needs to be approved by the SLS Executive Committee moving forward, we should seek to get that approval by May of each year, or before the Executive Committee breaks for the summer.

Andrea will send the draft proposal to the Executive Committee for approval before the Chair is passed to the next committee member.

Lauren is looking into the Eventbrite fee structure to identify the specific amount removed from our net proceeds. If the fee structure doesn't appear to be serving our needs any longer, the Showcase subcommittee will look into changing payment platforms.

There was an issue with lunches for the performers. Multi-person performing groups only received one lunch with their performer ticket and needed to pay for additional lunches for their group, but there wasn't a streamlined way to do so. If there is an option within the ticketing system to create "add-ons" for the performers, with the option of paying for additional lunches for their performing team, that would be best.

Librarian registration for the Showcase should close earlier, so we have a better estimate of final counts. This will ensure lunches can be ordered accurately and supplies can be coordinated.

Have two lists for librarian check-in and specify lines using letters of the alphabet for check-in (I.e. Last Names A-L; M-Z). Perhaps use some of our funds for lanyard nametags for attendees instead of printed nametags. Have the raffle tickets separate from the check-in line. Have the raffle prize drawings spread out throughout the day, rather than a chunk of raffles at the very end.

Performer check-in table ran smoothly. Some performers were new to the showcase and only showed up at the time of their performance, rather than attending for the full day. Several performers were coming from a performance somewhere else and wanted to know further in advance if/when they were showcasing. It would be ideal to let performers know whether they are showcasing before Thanksgiving/the holiday season. For performers, perhaps put their showcase time slot on their nametag, so they are aware of when they need to report to the "Green Room."

The Mission Viejo space that is proposed for next year will be similar to Yorba Linda. There is not a full professional stage, but there is a stage "wing" area, where performers can gather prior to their performance time.

It might be beneficial to have a "dress rehearsal" for the SLS Committee in advance of the event.

Some performers were upset that they didn't have more contact with librarians. To help with this, we could increase the number of performers librarians have to talk to in order to qualify for the raffle or increase the amount of time for breaks between sets to give more time for booking.

Could the director be sent out earlier to attendees? Some systems have an approved list of vendors and may only select certain performers. If they have the list in advance, they can work on getting performers approved in advance of the Showcase. This is particularly important for OCPL member libraries.

In years past, some committee members start early and are ready to take off in the afternoon. It might be helpful for the committee to split between an early shift and an afternoon shift.

Can school librarians or teachers attend? The directory provides public library prices, and school/parks and rec prices are vastly different; it would not be good to include school staff in this event.

Many performers asked for a copy of the directory. Perhaps create a set of printed copies for browsing during the event, should there be questions. Huntington Beach has access to a professional in-house print shop and could provide printed and bound copies.

Newport Beach will not be able to host in 2026 due to project delays. Anaheim will need to check with their Community Services team to see if they can host in 2026. OCPL will look into locations. It might be good to repeat locations on a 2-year basis. Mission Viejo will look into possibly hosting in 2025 and 2026.

Maintenance throughout the event was fantastic, and the bathrooms and public spaces remained neat and tidy. Future showcases should schedule trash pickup and bathroom cleaning halfway through the event to keep things tidy.

A/V Tech: Mission Viejo does have A/V Techs available for use. Lauren will look into this service and see if there are any additional costs.

The SLS Children's Services Committee should aim to have the approval from SLS Executive team before summer. Andrea will coordinate submission of the proposal for 2025, before the Chair is passed.

Winter 2023/24 Programming Recap

Orange

- Winter Reading Club program (next year want to do all-ages Winter Reading Club).
- Santa visits
- Exploring artists program - learned about artists and did art based on their style
- Math Challenge – facilitator is moving out of the area, so he won't be available for future programs.
- Financial Literacy programs for youth
- Blue Whales project grant – Whales, Wonder and Wow! Whale of a Tale Storytime
- Regular storytimes and programs
- Lots of folks on leave right now, so staffing is very low.

Anaheim

- Increased numbers with Winter Reading Program. Pleased with result. Additional 300+ participants over last year, and a higher percentage of folks finished the program. Raising Canes was sad they weren't chosen as the sponsor this year but will be supporting SRP.
- APL will be posting a Principal Programming Library position in the near future.
- Chill winter.
- Kim is the new APL representative for the SLS Children's Services committee.

OCPL

- System-wide Winter Reading Challenge using Beanstack – no paper logs. First system-wide WRC. Scavenger hunts and take-home crafts accompanied the challenge. 1,438 signed up for program county-wide.
- Winter crafts, gingerbread programs, and regular storytimes/programs at all OCPL locations.

Newport Beach

- Very successful middle grade book club.
- Theme of the past year has been expanding afterschool programs for 6-11 age range.
 - Program every Tuesday at 4:00pm for school age children:
 - Crafternoon programs (75+)
 - Game days (20-25)
 - Book club (limited to 10 participants)
 - Read to a Dog (40-60)
 - Makerspace (25-30)
- Storytimes are still very busy; program numbers might be affected by the construction of the lecture hall this spring.
- Family paint afternoon with tiny canvases. 75 people participated and it was very fun.
- BINGO once per season; gift card prizes (\$10). Four or five rounds of BINGO. Great intergenerational offering that suits multiple age groups.
- Percy Jackson party in January was really fun; lots of turnout from non-regular patrons.

Buena Park

- Building issues continue and access to the programming room is still limited, requiring creative workarounds to make programs happen. Using a smaller programming space that is shared with the passport office. Renovations to the room are delayed.
- Passive programs: Lunar New Year drop-in crafts; Valentine grams as a drop-in.
- Panda Express Winter Reading Program went well.
- Read to a Bark Dog continues.
- Monthly “Sci Fri” program that is STEAM-themed.

Mission Viejo

- Grant is totally complete for early learning – yay! Taking a break from grants.
- Stay & Play and Storytimes continue and have seen increased attendance recently.
- Good tween activities:
 - Book club
 - Craft club
- Paw Readathon – Fiona the dog comes once a month and kids can read to her.
- Storytime with Santa at the Shops at MV Mall.
- Aquarium of the Pacific on Wheels was great – over 200 people attended. Paid for through a grant. 30-minute presentation; 1.5 hours with touch tanks. \$1,500 fee. Offer different presentations for the auditorium component. On paper, the Aquarium only allows 150 participants in the program.
 - From Lucy – Aquarium of the Pacific used to have program kits for teachers/librarians to check out, with ready-to-go program materials.
- Jane Austen Ball was fantastic! A little over 100 attendees. Plan to repeat in December 2024.

Santa Ana

- Continuing with storytimes
- Bark read to a dog
- Segerstrom Center Studio D (accessible to all abilities) dance and workshop at each of their locations once per month for all ages. Some special needs groups have been attending.
- Winter Reading Program in February with Panda Express; worked out well.
- Xtreme Programming

Yorba Linda

- 12-14 storytimes and regular programs per week, so things are super busy right now.
- Did an age group analysis of regular programs to redistribute how programs are planned and allocated; gives more flexibility for families to attend based on age.
- Afterschool Group is filling up quickly! 85 kids are signed up right now, with a max of 100.
- Bigger programs:
 - Holiday on the Paseo
 - STEAM programs: Lunar New Year and Holidays

- Winter Reading Program: 350 participants, very low turnout, so they are re-evaluating to see if they should offer a year-round reading program instead. Just started using Beanstack, and no complaints from patrons, a few staff learning curves.
- Use LibCal/Springshare for program registration, which is required for all programs. Staff love the new online system. YLPL overbooks for their programs to account for no-shows at programs; i.e. 100 possible registrations for a program, expect about 60. Shortened program sessions to allow more people to get in during the course of the year. Sessions are 6 weeks long during the school year. Summer programs are weekly sign-ups. Give nametags to participants as they come in to attend the programs.
- Glass display case – brought in stuffed animals to do an “I Spy” case.

Fullerton

- Finished out fall sessions of Stay & Play and Storytime; ended with Janine Jacobs coming back for a special performance. Great attendance.
- Winter Reading Club mid-Dec to mid-Jan; wanted to see a bump in participation and did. 250 signups, which was an increase from last year. Raising Canes kids meal prizes plus a local pizza place (Pizza Heaven). Great finisher to registration percentage.
- Take & Make kits and monthly school-led programs by STEM Up 4 Youth.
- HP-themed Yule Ball was explosively popular and became an all-ages event. Well-attended and successful.

Spring 2024 Plans:

Fullerton:

- May the 4th Star Wars program

Orange:

- Blue Whales grant with continued programming; lots of local marine wildlife vendors/nonprofits presenting
- Nature hunt through March
- Dia at the end of April

Anaheim

- Chose not to take a spring break this year, but will bring a spring break for storytellers next year.
- Easy 3D printing for kids will continue monthly
- April Financial Literacy Month
- Star Wars and Mother’s Day programs in May

OCPL

- Kindergarten Readiness month in March at various branches; performer, introducing early learning stations, and promoting the KR backpacks; all branches are hosting activity stations and special storytimes
- April system-wide Comic Orange will mostly take place in Tustin, but with special kickoff events at select locations in the county

- Storytimes will continue as planned.

Newport Beach:

- Regular programs continue; don't take a spring break.
- Monthly special event at each of the branch locations.
- Spring Reading Challenge March 1 through April 30.
- 2 authors coming this month: Rachel Ignatofsky (March 9); Rashin Kheiriyeh (April 25)
- National Library Week
 - Lots of programs
 - City dignitaries coming to do special storytimes
- Butterfly habitat at the desk with release in May
- Lots of outreach events planned by staff at City and community events and expos.
- Mariners Branch is launching a Seed Library with an all-ages planting event.

Buena Park

- Passive programs for Earth Day and National Library Week
- Pi Poem passive program
- Women's History Month career panel
- Science programs about rockets
- Lots of school tours scheduled this month for second grade classes

Mission Viejo

- Nowruz event for Persian New Year; working with a local Persian school, who are planning all of the program components.
- Fancy Nancy Tea Party in April with Robin Preiss Glasser.
- Read Across America special storytimes at a local preschool and at an adults with memory loss center.
- Easter Bunny Storytime at the MV Mall all March long
- Mer-May Storytime in May
- Percy Jackson program at the end of the month
- Nothing Bundt Cakes reading challenge
- Earth Day environmental fair with the City
- NASA grant for a walk-through space exhibit and eclipse events
- Grant to do a community cookbook for all-ages
- May the 4th Be with You event with 501st, Math Challenge, and special event
- Mission Viejo Pride event in June – potential.
- Youth Summit registration is live for April 25 & 26 in HB

Yorba Linda

- Might make summer storytime "all-ages," to allow for older siblings to accompany.
- Storytimes and regular programs
- LEGO Mania and STEAM programs during Spring Break; open programs for all ages during scheduled spring break

- Star Wars event May 18th
- Giving out solar eclipse glasses, but no associated programs.

Santa Ana

- Women's History month
 - Rosette badge craft
- Performer for National Library Week
- Earth Day terrariums
- Dia event; HUGE program with performances, Suzanne Lang (Grumpy Monkey author); inflatables; electric ride-on train; food coupons; resource fair; Kids ImagineNation; mariachi; local high school Reverb Tap Company
- AAPI Heritage Month in May with craft day and Amy Lam performance

Huntington Beach

- Regular programs; large events on hiatus for April.

Round Table Discussion

Need to develop a plan for spending our Showcase funds (approx. \$5,500).

To streamline/shorten future meetings, the SLS Children's Committee should consider submitting event plans/reports in advance via email. Members could then come prepared with any questions they have for specific events they are interested in learning more about, and meeting time could be dedicated to other discussions and planning for the Showcase.

Meeting adjourned 12:35pm.