Deputy Director’s Report

for July 14, 2020 District Board Meeting

* Texas Book Festival Grant—Selection Committees from the Texas Library Association and the Texas Book Festival to meet in July, with award announcements to come in late July or early August. I will keep everyone posted.
* Summer Reading Program began on Friday, June 19th and will end on Friday, July 31st.
  + I created a Summer Reading Program webpage on our website through which patrons can link to the three age-group online programs hosted by EngagedPatrons.org.
  + Using EngagedPatrons.org, I created three age-group online summer reading programs—Children’s, Teens’, and Adults’. Patrons can access these online programs via links on our SRP webpage. Users create their own accounts, and then can share what they have read with other users on the site. Book cover art is displayed (users select the matching cover art) for the titles they post. Users can also rate the books they read and provide reviews for others to see. By clicking a book title, users are connected to our library catalog, so they can search for the book.
  + Users can provide brief profile descriptions of themselves and their reading interests and can upload an avatar of themselves. All profiles, avatars, and book reviews must be approved by me before they are visible to other users in the program.
  + In addition to tracking their reading, users can also complete a set of activities that I created. These include various tasks to accomplish, such as the age-group Summer Challenges created by TSLAC (I posted these to our website, and users can also hyperlink to the Challenges from the activity list in their account). The activities also include hyperlinks to several virtual museum and NASA tours that users can take themselves.
  + I created a user profile for myself as the Deputy Director for each age-group program, and while out last week, I continued to monitor the program activity daily.
  + We announced the SRP on our website, in the Blanco County News, and via Facebook.
  + I created a signup sheet for families who want to use paper logs; so far, I have only had one child pick up a paper log and signup sheet, but he did not return the signup sheet.
  + Prizes for participants will be awarded at the end of the SRP. Child and teen participants will get to choose a book from their respective age-group list, and the library will purchase the book for them to keep. Adult participants are given the choice to either have an E, J, or Y book purchased for the library in their name (with nameplate recognizing their participation in the SRP) or else they will receive a $20 gift card to Josie’s Kitchen.
  + I contacted Rik Gern (Bonzo Crunch) about performing virtually instead of onsite. Back in February, I had booked him to perform at the library on July 28th to close out the SRP. Rik will perform on July 30th at the library; however, the live performance will be streamed on Facebook with no spectators present in the library, except for support staff. Rik will arrive early so we have time to prep and troubleshoot.
* Prior to reopening the library, I moved all of the furniture that we would not be using, along with the toys from the children’s area and the puzzles to the study rooms, the large conference room, and the quiet reading room.
* I worked with Kee to plan for a grab-and-go style reopening of the library. Kee initially sent me a draft of some ideas based on a description of this process on the Buda Public Library’s website. We created a mockup document and met to discuss, with Crystal joining us via phone. I submitted the document to Crystal as a plan for reopening, and this is the basis for what we have been doing to serve the public in the building since we reopened the library on June 19th.
* Attended a pre-recorded webinar for Ploud training (website editor instructional video from TSLAC) to help with webpage design and building.
* Attended a webinar on July 1st, “Libraries in the Time of COVID, a Discussion,” hosted by The Library Corporation (Free CE Training posted by TSLAC’s Library Developments).
* Resumed ILL processing.
* Have continued to monitor the CTLS Directors Digest emails to keep abreast of what other Texas libraries are doing to provide service and how they are adjusting to the pandemic.
* Have continued to provide daily reports of work conducted to Crystal and the Board.