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Announcements

On Monday, September 21, 2009, the **Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Library System**, and the **Board of LIMRiCC** will meet. The LIMRiCC meeting will convene at 5:30 p.m., the MLS Board meeting immediately following. Meeting agendas can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/board>. Both meetings will be held at the MLS Burr Ridge Office located at 125 Tower Drive, Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527.

In response to the recent library system budget cut, MLS will be holding a series of **Member Focus Groups** to solicit feedback from MLS members regarding proposed service cuts. This feedback will assist MLS in completing a comprehensive plan to address our current budget crisis, as well as plan for the future. Handouts for the focus groups can be found at <http://www.mls.lib.il.us/members/serviceplan.asp>. Attend one of the following focus groups:

[Member Focus Group](#), Friday, September 11, 2009, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.,
MLS Chicago

[Member Focus Group](#), Monday, September 14, 2009, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
Oak Park Public Library

[Member Focus Group](#), Tuesday, September 15, 2009, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.,
MLS Burr Ridge

Check out the **New MLS Member Directory** at <http://www.librarylearning.info/libraries/system.aspx?LibSys=MLS>, which as of September 1, 2009 moved to L2. To update your library record, each library director would log into their account on by clicking on the *Sign In* link at the top right of the screen. Navigate to your library using the *Libraries link* near the sign in, and choose *Edit Building or View Staff* to make changes. Questions or help contact Jody Rubel at rubelj@mls.lib.il.us, or view L2 help at <http://www.librarylearning.info/help.aspx>.

Register for **Innovate, Create, and Succeed: Thinking Big, Thinking Forward** before end of the day October 1, 2009 and be entered into a raffle to

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win an Amazon Kindle, furnished by Prenax Basch. This one day conference geared towards Special Librarians, takes place on Friday, November 6, 2009 at the MLS Burr Ridge office. Anne Caputo, SLA President Elect will speak along with others on topics ranging from facilitating and incorporating creativity into your work, creative marketing, and use of tools and resources. A lunch-hour Expo will showcase vendors, demos of Second Life and the SLA Innovation Lab. Complete program descriptions and to register visit <http://www.librarylearning.info/events/?eventID=5671>.

Congratulations goes to the MLS group the **Reference Association of the South Suburbs (RASSL)** as the winner of this year's **ILA's Reference Services Award**, for their Guadalajara International Book Fair Sponsorship. RASSL's sponsorship of the book fair provides travel expenses for one librarian each year who works in the area of Spanish language acquisitions and/or working to build their Spanish language collection to better serve their community. The award will be presented at the ILA Conference in Peoria, October 6-9, 2009. Information about RASSL can be found at <http://www.rassl.info>.
[Permalink]

Museum Adventure Pass Program Launches

Around 150 people attended the September 1 launch event for the Museum Adventure Pass program sponsored by Macy's in partnership with DLS, MLS, and NSLS, 153 of their member libraries and 17 Chicago suburban area museums. The kick-off event took place at the Brookfield Zoo along with other participating museums hosting tables for the visiting guests who were the staff from the participating libraries and their children.
[Permalink]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_17/museumpassprogram.asp

Continuing Education Events

A reminder that workshops taking place in either of the MLS Office Computer Labs prohibit food or beverages. Workshop attendees are asked to be considerate of this request for it prevents the chance of damage to the computer lab equipment.

[Developing a Winter Reading Parade Program](#), Eric Arnall, Monday, September 28, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Support for Mobile Devices Users](#), Toby Grenwalt and Jacob Hill, Thursday, October 22, 2009, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., MLS Chicago

[Discovering Urban Fiction for Middle School Students](#), K.C. Boyd, Friday, October 23, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., MLS Burr Ridge

[Management Skills & Styles](#), Gretel Stock-Kupperman, Tuesday, October 27, 2009, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Acorn Public Library District

For more information and to register, visit the MLS CE Calendar at <http://www.librarylearning.info/?LibSys=MLS>.
[Permalink]

Grants & Awards

The **Library Journal Directors' Summit on "Successful Fundraising in a Tough Economy,"** is taking place November 9 - 10 at Chicago Public Library (CPL), is designed to provide library directors with direct access to some of the most respected leaders in the library fundraising world. Sponsored by Gale Cengage Learning and hosted by LJ, Library Strategies, and CPL, the summit includes an evening reception and keynote, followed by a full day of panels, breakout sessions, and speed consulting with experts on creating support for buildings, technology, endowments, and more. Free and open to directors of large and medium-sized public libraries. To register visit www.libraryjournal.com/directorssummit09.

YALSA's Great Books Giveaway Competition offers the remaining books, video's, CD's and audiocassettes sent from Publishers to the YALSA office that must be removed to make room for next year's publications. Libraries in need are encouraged to apply for these materials targeted for young adults. The deadline is December 1, 2009 and more information regarding the application criteria and how to apply can be found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/awardsandgrants/yalsasgreatbook.cfm>.
[Permalink]

Member Spotlight: Summer Reading Program Recap

This article focuses on the Summer Reading Programs of several MLS Public Libraries, and the trends, surprises and lessons they learned for creating even better summer reading programs for next year. Check out the success of these libraries and take away a few ideas for next year's summer reading program at your library.

[Permalink]

[Read full article](#)

http://www.mls.lib.il.us/enounce/2009/03_17/summerreadingrecap.asp

Next Issue

The next issue of *MLS E-nnounce* will appear September 23, 2009. [Permalink]

Museum Adventure Pass Program Launches

by Christina Stoll, MLS

Around 150 people attended the September 1st launch event for the Museum Adventure Pass program (<http://www.museumadventure.org>) sponsored by Macy's in partnership with the DuPage, Metropolitan, and the North Suburban Library Systems, 153 of their member libraries and 17 Chicago suburban area museums and cultural organizations.

The kick-off event took place at the Brookfield Zoo along with other participating museums hosting tables for the visiting guests who were the staff from the participating libraries and their children. The planning advisory team members made up of directors, youth services, and circulation staff from each of the three library systems were also invited, along with media sponsors Lite FM 93.9 and the Chicago Sun-times.



Staff from participating libraries and their children visit the participating museum tables.

The program came to the surrounding Chicago suburbs after Jeannie Dilger-Hill, LaGrange Public Library

Director (formerly an MLS Consultant) and Judy Hoffman Marketing/Communications Specialist for NSLS, attended a session at the 2008 PLA conference on the success of the Detroit and Minneapolis Museum Pass programs. Judy and Jeannie came back full of excitement and a vision for a library-system wide program in the Chicago-land communities.

“There are so many great museums and cultural organizations in the Chicago city and suburbs for local residents to experience. In these tight economic times it’s easy for parents to cut out extras like trips to a museum or the zoo, but it would be a shame for kids to miss out on the rich cultural and education opportunities they provide,” shared Jeannie of her original vision for the program.

The program supplies participating libraries with museum passes for check out on a first come first serve basis as passes are available by their local residents. The checkout is for a week loan, and each library has its own limited number of passes for each museum. The passes cannot be reserved or checked out online or on the phone. Admission offers vary per museum. For some, two or four people may be admitted free per pass, or by carload. If admission is free, another special discount will be offered. Complete details can be found at http://www.museumadventure.org/about_program.php.

After a year of hard work the September 1st event celebrated the official launch of the program with speeches from partnering organizations, followed by the opening of a super-sized book with the Museum Adventure Pass program logo inside, and the enjoyment of cake and networking between Museum and Library participants.



Brad Poterack, Alice Calabrese, Judy Hoffman, Pam Kramer, Dr. Strahl, and Gretel Stock-Kupperman hold

open the ceremonial book officially launching the program followed by the cutting of cake to be enjoyed by all.

Dr. Stuart Strahl, President & CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society welcomed everyone to the zoo and the event. He shared how being part of the pass program supported the zoo's own mission of "giving back to the community while still remaining accessible and affordable." Dr. Strahl also stressed the shared goal of museums and libraries in promoting life-long learns for "kids who go to the library and museums grow up to be parents who bring their kids back to the library and museums".



Dr. Stuart Strahl, President & CEO of the Chicago Zoological Society

Brad Poterack, District Vice President of Macy's spoke on behalf of his organization and as a resident whose own kids would benefit from the program, on his company's gratitude for being part of a program that promoted the offerings of local libraries, access to local arts, and giving back to the community.



Brad Poterack, District Vice President of Macy

Alice Calabrese, MLS Executive Director commended this program as a great example of “how through collaboration between libraries and museums, can result in the fostering of strong connections between similar organizations and the communities they serve. [It also] shows libraries as community centers with the resources in which to enrich their communities.”

The 17 participating museums and cultural organizations include:

Arlington Heights Historical Museum (<http://www.ahmuseum.org>)
Bronzeville Children's Museum (<http://www.bronzevillechildrensmuseum.com>)
Brookfield Zoo (<http://www.czs.org/czs/Brookfield/Zoo-Home>)
Cantigny Park (<http://www.cantigny.org>)
Chicago Botanic Garden (<http://www.chicago-botanic.org>)
Cuneo Museum and Gardens (<http://www.cuneomuseum.org>)
Elgin History Museum (<http://www.elginhistory.org/museum.html>)
Elgin Public Museum (<http://www.elginpublicmuseum.org>)

Sandy Brubaker, Executive Director of the 150 year old Graue Mill and Museum (<http://www.grauemill.org>), when asked what it meant for her museum to be part of the program commented that it was so “important to work in cooperation with similar organizes such as libraries and museums who share a combined mission of supporting literacy.”

National Hellenic Museum (<http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org>)
KidsWork Children's Museum (<http://www.kidsworkchildrensmuseum.org>)
Kohl Children's Museum (<http://www.kohlchildrensmuseum.org>)
Lake County Discovery Museum (http://www.lcpd.org/discovery_museum)
Mitchell Museum of the American Indian (<http://www.mitchellmuseum.org>)
Morton Arboretum (<http://www.mortonarb.org>)

Jessica Caracci, Education Programs Associate for the Oriental Institute Museum (<http://oi.uchicago.edu>) is excited for her museum to take part in the program with the hopes that “more people will come to know about our existence and come see [the Oriental Institute Museum]. Their current exhibit includes scans of a mummy resulting in 3-D images and reconstructions of what she might have looked like.

The St. Charles Heritage Museum (<http://www.stcmuseum.org>) has facts about the area including that St. Charles was once the pickle capital of the world. Natalie Gacek, Educator for the museum shared her excitement for the program in that it provides the opportunity to “reach more people, who can come and learn about the history of St. Charles.”



Museum Adventure Pass Program poster and Library and Museum participants at the launch celebration.

Sandy Whitmer Library Director at the Warrenville Public Library District and a member of the library system advisory team hoped that the program would help the library “to see new residents who come to the library to take part in the museum pass program and as result become new library card holders.”

Kate Pierson, Youth Service Director at the Glen Ellyn Public Library (<http://www.gepl.org>) found serving on the project advisory team a fascinating experience and gives much thanks to the library system staff for making the project work seamlessly. Having her library participate in the program provides “another service our library can provide to residents, particularly in tough economic times”, added Kate.

As project lead for the program, Gretel Stock-Kupperman, Director of Consulting and CE for MLS is most proud “of the opportunity for collaboration this program provides libraries and museums. It’s a great way for libraries to get new ideas, for museums to reach out, and for everyone to benefit.”

Check out the Museum Adventure Pass program web site for a listing of all participating public libraries at <http://www.museumadventure.org>. If your local public library is on the list, you can check out available passes the next time you visit.

Questions about the Museum Adventure Pass program should be sent to http://www.museumadventure.org/contact_us.php.

Published **August 9, 2009** in vol. 3, iss. 17 [[View](#)]

Summer Reading Program Recap

by Christina Stoll, MLS

This article focuses on the Summer Reading programs of several MLS Public Libraries, and the trends, surprises and lessons they learned. Check out the success of these libraries and take away a few ideas for next year's summer reading program at your library.

The **Forest Park Public Library** (<http://www.forestparkpubliclibrary.org>) supported the Be Creative @ Your Library (BCYL) theme this summer, offering programs for babies - adults.

Susan Kunkle, Youth Services Managers reported that registration was almost double. Their most popular event was a tie between their flea circus performer and the Harry Potter Theater Night where movie tickets were raffled off.

When asked what made these two programs so successful, Susan said "I think people were really excited about the movie coming out and wanted to commemorate it. The flea circus we promoted really well which helped cement it in people's minds."



Flea Circus Performer at the Forest Park Public Library

The library also reintroduced an evening pajama story-time called "Campfire Story-time on a different night which drew numbers as large as their story-times during the day. Changes for next year include an aim for more consistency across programs by measuring everyone in minutes. Also a de-emphasizing of awards concentrating on bigger rewards for all the finishers, and having multiple grand prize raffles where the kids can choose which raffle they want their tickets to go towards.

Dayna Tucker, library staff member in the Children's and Youth Service Department at the **River Grove Public Library** (<http://www.rivergrovelibrary.org>) reported that her library followed the Read on the Wild Side (ROWS) theme for children 10 and under. Their kick-off party, which included a traveling zoo with live animals, along with two other events where kids learned about platypuses and painted ceramic elephants were all successful.

"The live animals and the interaction of getting to paint a big 'piggy bank' like ceramic elephant made these events so great," reported Dayna.



Girl painting a ceramic elephant at a event as part of the River Grove Public Library's Summer Reading Program.

One of the nicest surprises was having a few parents who not only brought in their kids for programming but also the neighbor's kids. "It was nice that they felt the importance about reading during the summer", said Dayna.

Thoughts for next year's summer reading include extending the programs to 2 hours, and offering more parent involved events. Dayna adds some final tips "I encourage the 'many ways to read' [such as] independently with a friend, in small groups, taking turns, out loud, page-by-page, even & odds, chapters & even some funny ways like upside down, end to the beginning and even backwards. Reading can be so much fun!"

The **Flossmoor Public Library** (<http://flossmoorlibrary.org>) supported the BCYL theme for Birth - 5th grade and the Express Yourself (EY) theme for 6th-12th grade, as well as an Adult program. Margie Wegrzyn, Head of Youth Services said participation was slightly up from last year, with their Scoop-a-rama being the most popular event.

Margie explained, "We serve ice cream outside and have a popular local musician perform. This program really brings the community together and has become an event the children and parents look forward to attending.

Each event averages between 30-40 attendees, and the program themes included Israeli Dancing, Instrument Petting Zoo, a Party Dancing and Sidewalk Chalk. Plans for next year will repeat the allowing of participants to set their own reading goals and provide a group incentive to read beyond their goals. This year for every 10 books read a hand was added to our Rainbow of Readers wall in the Youth Department. "It was a beautiful visual of how many books were read over the summer," added Margie.

The **Matteson Public Library** (<http://www.mattesonpubliclibrary.org>) offered summer reading programs for children – adults and a family program that supported the ROWS theme.

Registration was up by 100 kids reported Head of Youth Services Phyllis Davis, which was a 69% increase in participation and a 71% increase in completion over last year.

A change to their program was they allowed kids to turn in a weekly log for a prize. The teen program had a weekly raffle for a gift card, while adults followed a reading green books theme.

The libraries kick-off event was a drop-in/self-serve scavenger hunt where children had to follow clues around the library for a free goodie bag. The activity brought in more than three times the number of people than previous years - its popularity due to its convenience for parents and appeal to a wide

range of ages. Two -17 year olds complete the hunt to get a bag; the entire cost approximately \$.75 per kid/bad.

The **Chicago Heights Public Library** (<http://www.chicagoheightslibrary.org>) also followed the ROWS theme for their children and family summer reading programs.

Norma Rubio, Head of the Children's Department noted that both kid registration and completion was higher compared to last year. She also commented on their most popular event being "our water day which involved a balloon fight and a small pool for kids. The kids enjoyed getting the library staff wet. I think they really enjoyed seeing us out of our normal setting."

New programs were offered this year which the library hopes to repeat next year summer. Norma also hopes that the kids who participate in her library's summer reading program continue their excitement for reading and winning prizes throughout the school year. The library also offers a reading buddy program where kids come into the library and sit with a staff member and they read to them.

At the **Blue Island Public Library** (<http://www.blueislandlibrary.org>), the staff offered several events and activities as part of its summer reading programs, all supporting the ROWS theme:

- Preschool Story-time
- Wii are Family Game Night
- Reading in the Park Stories
- Radio Disney 1300
- Friday Bash Movies
- Family Reading/Leyendo en Familia

Deb Beasley, Department Manager / Youth Services commented on their biggest event being their nine Radio Disney programs they held in partnership with the local community. "We brought Disney to kids who might never have had the chance to experience Disney—priceless!"



Kids participating in a Hula Hoop activity as part of the Blue Island Public Library's Summer Reading program.

Loretta Bohn, Head of Children's Services at the **Berkeley Public Library** (<http://www.berkeleylib.org>) shared insight to their summer reading program which ran for six weeks following the BCYL theme for children birth - grade 8.

Their registration increased by 62% and two of their most successful events included a Costumer Character Story-time with "Curious George" and a "Read-To-The-Dogs" event, where kids read to dogs and each received a bilingual paperback copy of "The Great Dog Wash." Loretta commented that "all the children walked away with big smiles on their faces."

Children who completed the summer reading program and their parents were invited to a Pool Party at

Adventure Bay Water Park in Hillside.

Another BCYL supported program was at the **River Forest Public Library** (<http://www.riverforestlibrary.org>). Sue Quinn, Head of Children's Services reported that their numbers doubled from last year, and they kicked off their program on the library lawn the afternoon that the public schools let out with popcorn, popcorns and an inflatable bouncer.

"We were able to capture the beginning of summer enthusiasm and put the library on everyone's summer agenda before the kids got involved with all of their other activities," said Sue.

New to their program was a Reading Challenge which brought in droves of kids completing the challenge several times over. The library also held a program the day after the end of Summer Reading to let the kids decorate their t-shirts with fabric markers and/or a sharpie tie-die which ended up being very popular. More than 1/3 of our finishers showed up, and the hope is that there will be several kids walking around town in their t-shirts all year advertising the library.

Bedford Park Public Library (<http://www.bplib.net>) followed the ROWS theme for children ages 3-13 in their community. While fewer readers were reported this year by Children's Librarian Barb Weber, their most popular event was Robin's dog Stars, since animals are always a big hit with kids.

A Children and Family Program was supported following the BCYL theme at the **Broadview Public Library District** (<http://www.broadviewlibrary.org>). Participation was about the same reported Kenya Williams, Children's Librarian / Youth Services. Their most popular program was Dave Herzog's Marionettes, who is loved not only by the kids but their parents as well. The biggest surprise was the amount of minutes the kids read. Kenya plans on repeating everything next year but hopes to offer more prizes for the kids at the end of the program.

Sheri Daun-Bedford, Head of the Children' Department at that **Woodridge Public Library** (<http://www.woodridgelibrary.org>) reported on her library's summer reading programs as follows:

- Children's - BCYL
- Young Adult - Connect2Reading @ Your Library
- Adult - Master the Art of Reading

Participation in the Children's Department was up and all children's programming was well attended, with programs for the 4th -6th graders seeing the largest increase. "We focused more on craft programs with a craft each week, examples being creating pet rocks and a habitat, decorating a canvas tote bag, tie-dying a pillow case with Sharpies and rubbing alcohol, decorating a journal," commented Sheri.

Jennifer Lowe in the Youth Services Department at the **Tinley Park Public Library** (www.tplibrary.org) reported that her library supported the ROWS theme with a Safari for Youth Services, a Road Trip for Teens, while the Adults did an Olympics theme. A family program and a program on their bookmobile were also supported. Participation was up 75% overall and more than 100% in teen participation. Small children and families enjoyed musician Jim Gill while older children attended a magic show and teens and families attended the Fairy Tale Theatre.

Trends spotted by library staff included:

- Completion rates and the number of books read higher.
- More fathers coming in with their children.
- An increase in the number of audio books being checked out.
- Larger numbers of first time library patrons, both adults and children
- Teen participation was very high.
- Families coming into the library together.

Questions about this article, contact Christina Stoll as stollc@mls.lib.il.us.

Published **August 9, 2009** in vol. 3, iss. 17 [[View](#)]