

FRIENDS GRANTS PROGRAM SUMMARIES

July 1st 2020 – June 30th 2021

Children's Classes and Events

Barely Balanced 2020

Medium from Barely Balanced entertained us with stunts, thrills, comedy, and interactive theater! The kids had a blast watching acrobatics and giggling at the silly jokes. They also got to try their hand at plastic bag juggling and learned some new tricks with popcorn. Attendance was virtual via the Zoom platform. Friends' funds were used for the performer stipend.

David Stokes 2020

The Animal Dude, David Stokes, came to visit as one of the big performers for Children's this year. He gave us exclusive access to a 55-minute show through YouTube, then joined our patrons via Zoom for 2 Q&A sessions. David incorporated live animals, puppets, artifacts, songs, sign-language, and the stories into his video and brought live animals to the Q&A session. One patron loved it SO much that she had to run to her room to grab her own stuffed snake and put it on her head too! Friends' Funds were used for the performer stipend.

Building for Kids Children's Parade 2020

This year's annual Building for Kids Children's Parade was done differently. Families and businesses volunteered to decorate their property and be part of a driving map so families could safely socially distance and see some fun sites. At APL, we shared yard signs of some favorite book characters and created a book list based on those characters. We would like to thank Friends for helping make these decorations happen.

Summer Library Program Prizes 2020

This year's Summer Library Program included a completion prize of a selection of books for those who participated. The Children's Department wanted to ensure that this prize package included books with children of color to reflect the essential role that literature plays in building positive self-esteem and community reflection. Our Friends generously supported this effort by funding the purchase of books at each reading level for this effort.

STREAM Team Summer Camp 2020

STREAM Team went virtual this summer with a special STREAM Team Summer Camp edition July 20-25. This program was for 3-5-year old's and focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Before the program started, patrons picked up a pack of supplies at the library that included everything they would need for the week of activities. Twenty preschoolers, divided into two groups, met on Zoom each morning for a short story time and an explanation of the 6 activities for the day. Each day had a theme, water, popsicles, gardening, bugs and favorites. The kids and parents

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had a blast and we received lots of positive feedback. Friends' funds were used for the special supplies.

"Thank you so much for all of your work on this. It is one of the highlights of our summer. Your work goes above and beyond for this program and providing it at home right now is even harder and you managed to make it look easy, but I know the work that goes behind it so thank you again."

"Thank you so much for class this week! Linus and Florence are absolutely loving it. It has been the highlight of each day! Once again, I cannot thank you enough. We were all overwhelmed by the loving care put into the planning of this camp and the boxes. We are so grateful!"

"I wanted to thank you for the wonderful program. I was very impressed with the activities and prepped and organized the kit was!"

STREAM Team Spring 2021

Spring STREAM Team ran for 8 weeks in March and April. This program was for 3–5-year-olds and focused on science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math. Patrons picked up a pack of supplies before the program started and then picked up a second box halfway through the program that included everything needed for the 8 weeks of activities. Thirty preschoolers, divided into four groups, met on Zoom each Thursday for a short story time and an explanation of the 6 activities for the day. Each week had a theme, winter, St. Patrick's Day, opposites, robots, eggs & bunnies, birds, butterflies, and Earth Day. The kids and parents had a blast and we received lots of positive feedback.

Maker Quest - Take and Make – April 2021

Spring was in the air at April's Maker Quest! We had a wonderful time making some sounds of the season. The K-2nd group made Chirping Crickets. The 3rd-6th grade crew made Rain sticks and were extremely happy to use hammers for the first time in one of our programs! Both groups worked on their engineering and art skills with these unique projects. As always, we had the Make and Take bags for pick up and it was followed up with our Show & Tell program through Zoom. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

Maker Quest - Take and Make – May 2021

May's Maker Quest project was the same for all grade levels. We made Grass Heads. Using wheatgrass seeds, soil, nylons, and googly eyes, students made some absolutely adorable planting projects. When completed, the Grass Heads looked a bit like a Chia

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Pet with grass growing out of the top like hair. We all had fun trimming the grass hair that we grew. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

Maker Quest - Take and Make – June 2021

June is a very SWEET month for Maker Quest as all of our participants are working on their no-sew crafting and art skills. Kindergarten-2nd graders worked on making sock donuts while 3rd-6th graders made Pop Tart pillows. So far, the projects have been picked up and brought home to work on. We can't wait to see what they created when we see them on Zoom tomorrow for Show & Tell. Friends' funds were used to purchase supplies for the program.

September Downtown Storywalk 2020

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local businesses downtown as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public enjoyment. "A Map into the World" written by Kao Kalia Yang is the book on display for the month of September. The story follows a Hmong family who transitions to their new home, neighborhood, and life in America. It coincides with Kao Kalia's virtual author visit in October for Fox Cities Reads. Friends' funds are used to purchase the Storywalk books.

August Downtown Storywalk 2020

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local, small businesses downtown as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public enjoyment. "Drum Dream Girl" written by Maragrita Engle is the book on display for the month of August. The story follows a girl, who desperately wants to pursue music, but faces lots of challenges as only boys can play music on her island. It coincides with ADI's monthly theme of "Your Story".

July Downtown Storywalk 2020

In partnership with ADI, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Chalk* by Bill Thomson. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as storywalk pages. ADI connected with local businesses who posted the pages in their storefront windows. Families who walk downtown will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up from about the third week in July to the third week in August. In addition to the story itself, each page has a written prompt directing families to do actions (roar like a dinosaur, jump into a pretend puddle etc.) or answer questions (What would you draw with orange chalk? What do you think they are feeling?) as they read the story. Friends' funds are used to purchase the Storywalk books.

September Memorial Park Storywalk 2020

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In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *How to Take Care of Your Dinosaur* by Jason Cockcroft. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up for the month of September. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

August Memorial Park Storywalk 2020

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Summer Song* by Kevin Henkes. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up for the month of August. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

January Memorial Park StoryWalk 2021

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *The Wish Tree* by Kyo Maclear and Chris Turnham. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title is up for the months of December and January. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

March Memorial Park StoryWalk 2021

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *The Snowy Day* by Jack Ezra Keats. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title is up for the months of March. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

January Downtown Storywalk 2021

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Children's partnered with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille written by Jen Bryant was the book on display for the month of January. The story follows Louis Braille and how he lost his sight to how he invented braille, the tactile writing system for the blind and visually impaired. The book highlights January as Braille Literacy Month.

February & March Downtown Storywalk 2021

Children's partnered with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging story walk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. Eyes that Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho was the book on display for the month of February. The poetic story is about a young girl who loves her eyes, although different from others, because they carry many generations of strength and stories. Her eyes kiss in the corners and glow like warm tea just like her mama's, amah's, and mei-mei's. It is a very empowering book for many children from Asian backgrounds.

April – June Memorial Park StoryWalk 2021

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of 3 books; *When Spring Comes* by Kevin Henkes, *The Very Impatient Caterpillar* by Ross Burach and *And Then Comes Summer* by Tom Brenner. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages for the months of April-June. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. These titles will be up for 1 month each, April-June. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk. Friends' funds provided the books for the Storywalks.

April & June Downtown Storywalks 2021

Children's is partnering with Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) to bring an engaging StoryWalk downtown. It involves partnerships from local downtown businesses as each page of a story is displayed on a business's front window for public engagement. *Peanut Goes for the Gold* by Jonathan Van Ness is the book on display for the month of April. It follows Peanut who has their own unique ways of doing things. The book was chosen to align with a children's program in partnership with Diverse & Resilient and the Fox Cities Community Reads title *George. I am Enough* by Grace Byers is the book on display for the month of June. The story empowers black children to embrace themselves and was chosen in celebration of Juneteenth. Friends' funds provided the books for the Storywalks.

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July Memorial Park Storytime 2020

In partnership with Appleton Parks & Rec, Children's Services utilized Friends' funds to purchase two copies of *Here Come the Aliens!* by Colin McNaughton to go along Parks & Rec's theme "Alien Invasion" for Children's Week. These books were unassembled and then reassembled as StoryWalk pages. Appleton Parks & Rec built and installed permanent sign holders along a trail at Memorial Park for the StoryWalk pages to be displayed. Families who walk the trail will now be able to read the story as they go. This title will be up from 7/13 through 8/2. In addition to the story itself, each page has fun activities to engage families as they read and walk.

Korean Mask Workshop 2021

The Korean Mask Workshop took place on March 27th at 11AM on Zoom. This program was geared for the K-6 crowd and 16 patrons attended. Seonjoo So Oh was our featured guest artist and during the program she shared about the traditional Korean Mask Dance (Bongsam Tal-Chum), Korean drumming, and traditional Korean drums. Each registered participant received a take-and-make kit containing a watercolor kit and 3-D mask template to create their own mask at the end of the program.

This workshop was also funded in part by East Asia in Wisconsin, a grant dedicated to honoring and uplifting East Asian culture in response to increasing hate crimes and violence against the Asian American community.

Virtual May Hmong Programming - Creative Writing with Author, VT Bidania 2021

Children's Services contracted with Hmong author, VT Bidania, to lead a creative writing workshop for the children of Appleton. VT Bidania is the first author to publish a book series with Hmong leads titled, *Astrid and Apollo*. She read a chapter from one of the books, talked about identity and the importance of representation, and then children were encouraged to write their own poems using one of her templates. VT also provided goodie bags for registered participants. Friends' funds provided the performer's stipend.

Virtual May Hmong Programming - Chain Making with Artist, Ger Xiong 2021

Children's contracted Ger Xiong to lead a chain making workshop for children in grades 2-6. Ger is a talented young artist who's artwork centers on metals and jewelry. He spent a year in Thailand to study the works of Hmong metalsmithing. Participants who registered for the workshop received a kit with supplies and followed Ger as he taught them how to link coils of copper/brass to make a Hmong-inspired bracelet.

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A parent reached out and thanked us for the exposure to culturally diverse artists and the opportunity to learn such unique skills. Friends' funds provided the performer's stipend.

Virtual May Hmong Programming - Media Animation with Tou Yia Xiong 2021

Children's contracted Tou Yia Xiong to lead a Media Animation workshop for the children of Appleton. Tou Yia is an artist and toy designer for Manhattan Toys. His work has been featured on The View. In the workshop, he used the app, *Art Eater*, to teach children the different types of animation and how to create their own. Participants were very engaged and asked if we will bring the workshop again soon. Additionally, a parent thanked us for the exposure to culturally diverse artists and the opportunity to learn such unique skills. Friends' funds provided the performer stipend.

Pokémon Scavenger Hunt 2021

As kids and their adults are welcomed back into the library, what better way to reacquaint them with the Children's Section than to have a super fun, Pokémon-themed scavenger hunt? Families and friends are having a great time working together to find 20 Pokémon characters throughout the area to earn a vinyl sticker prize at the end. The hunt helps patrons to remember where their favorite materials are located and, perhaps, introduces them to some lesser-known areas/collections. Friends' funds provided the sticker prize at the end of the Scavenger Hunt.

1000 Books Before Kindergarten 2021

Friends' funds were used to purchase new prizes for the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. The prizes include wooden cars, toy boats, dinosaur bath squirters, rubber duckies, and sensory balls. Children get to pick out a prize for every 100 books they read. The new prizes have sparked excitement in the program as children saw them in the display case during May and early June.

Kids Fun with Finance Series 2021

APL is teaming with Junior Achievement to offer a 5-week financial literacy series this summer. Through JA videos, students hear from a different small business owner each week and learn about financial concepts such as wants/needs, effects of business on neighborhoods, entrepreneurship, marketing, product concepts, and more. We then take those concepts and work on a different activity for each class. Activities include inventing products, responsible spending, logo creation, etc. Thank you to Friends for funding the materials to make this happen.