

## Staff Activity and Community Impact Report

February 2025

### Events, Programs, and Services of Note

#### **Creative Age and Belonging Program Wraps Up**

In partnership with the London Arts Council and funded by a New Horizons grant, this seven-month program wrapped up on January 24<sup>th</sup>. Through this program LPL was able to offer 63 programs delivered by 13 different artists at 11 locations to 438 seniors.

#### **Family Literacy Day at the Central Library**

The event on January 25 drew 220 participants to the Library for early literacy activities, story times and singalongs. Staff from across the Library joined in to offer engaging and interactive experiences. Many of our community partners such as *London Police Services, Investing in Children, La Ribambelle, Nshwaasnangong Family Centre, London Health Science Centre and Middlesex London Health Unit* took part, answering questions from the families and providing activities for children.

#### **First Nerf Battle a Big Success at the Beacock Branch**

On the evening of February 7, Beacock Branch hosted the Library's first ever Nerf Battle program. There were 22 youth participants and parents stayed to watch the action. Participants were excited about being able to have a program like this and many spoke of returning every Friday! More Nerf Battles to come on February 21, 28 and March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Beacock or Pond Mills Branch.

#### **Western International: Lunch for New International Students & Families**

Program and Outreach Services staff attended this event on January 17, which welcomes new international students and their families to London. Staff issued library cards and introduced the students to all that the Library has to offer.

#### **John Muirhead & The Pairs at the Wolf**

The first Wolf Performance Hall Presents concert of 2025 was held on January 25 featuring John Muirhead along with local group The Pairs. 200 people were in attendance.

### From the Community

#### **Lambeth Branch: Book Club for Adults**

A very pleased customer told a Librarian, "I want you to know how much I look forward to our meetings...thanks to all that you do to make them so special! The books you choose are always surprising and interesting. You have really expanded my reading experience. Many thanks."

## Beacock Branch: Parent Loves Nerf Battle

After the first Nerf Battle program on February 7, a parent reached out with the following comment, “Just wanted to send feedback about the Nerf event we attended at the Beacock Branch. It was EPIC! My kid loved it so much he asked if he could go again tomorrow! The staff did a phenomenal job and we hope there will be more events in the future!”

## CEO Report

On Friday, January 31, staff from the London Public Library took part in a session at the Ontario Library Association Superconference focusing on Cyberattacks in Canadian Public Libraries. The conference, the largest in Canada focused on libraries, attracts library staff from across the country.

The CEO, Director of IT Jon Macdonald and Manager of Marketing & Communications Ellen Hobin presented in the first half, which focused on behind-the-scenes efforts. Manager of Customer Service and Branch Operations Chelsie Abraham and Integrated Library System (ILS) Solutions Specialist Sarah Kasprzak spoke in the second half, which focused on management of public services. All participants did the Library proud.

## In the Media

- [Strong turnout at the Volunteer Fair: 475 attendees](#)
- [Calling all nature lovers! Nature in the City series returns to London](#)
- [Things Londoners need to know, and do as Black History Month begins](#)

## Upcoming Programs and Events of Interest

### March Break

*March 8-15 at all locations*

All 16 neighbourhood locations will offer a variety of free, drop in and registered programs and activities to meet the needs of children and families over the March Break. Find all programs [here](#).

Highlighted Programs:

#### **Labs Open House (Ages 13+) at the Central Library**

*March 11, 2-5pm*

Teens and adults are invited to visit The Labs at Central Library and try out the Cricut and 3D Printer. There will be a demonstration of the Recording Studio and a chance to take a green screen portrait.

## **Comic Book Jam (Families) at the Central Children's Library**

*March 12, 1-4pm*

Our annual celebration of comic books in partnership with Heroes Comics offers comic-themed activities for all ages.

## **Author Event: Where Do Stories Come From? With Rina Singh at the Central Library**

*March 22, 11-11:30am*

As part of our annual celebration of children in our READ program, we are hosting a visit from author Rina Singh, which is open to the public. Using Barefoot Skateboarders as a highlight, Rina Singh shares the journey of transforming real-life events into compelling narratives, emphasizing the importance of thorough research. She offers insights into how a book comes together - from the first idea to drafts and rewrites - giving a behind-the-scenes look at storytelling inspired by real life.

## **New Weekly STEAM Programs in the Children's Library**

We're excited to offer a full slate of STEAM programming for children in our Children's Library:

- **Early Engineers (Ages 4+), Mondays, 4:30 - 7:30 pm**  
Explore Engineering with a different building challenge every week!
- **Dabble Lab Tech (10+), Tuesdays, 5:30 – 7:30 pm**  
Discover new technology, use your imagination and try out various tech toys and tools.
- **Art Studio Junior (2+), Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 am**  
Use different art mediums with toddler friendly art activities.
- **STEAM Lab (Ages 4+), Wednesdays, 11:30 – 2:30 pm**  
Drop-in to explore different Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math related activities
- **Print a Small Thing (10+), 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month, 5 – 8pm**  
Work one on one with our Digital Literacy Facilitator. Children will have the opportunity to find a small “thing” in Thingiverse and learn to print it on a 3D Printer. Register in advance.