

Board Report, 1.21.2021

John and Judy Gay Library

Getting better every day

We have the good fortune to have funds to finish out our furniture and fixtures. We are purchasing items to enhance the public's use of the building as well as updating our back of the house furniture. We have already received 37 batteries, half of which we installed on tables that were not near an electrical outlet, while the other half charge back up. This allows our customers to power and charge their laptops or phones from practically every table in the building.

We have also purchased items for use in programming. We have received four Singer sewing machines, and we also have a mobile kitchen on order. This comes with tools and appliances and a curriculum. You can read more about this at <https://charliecart.org/>. We have also ordered some gaming computers and Xbox controllers.

For staff and programming use, we are ordering additional laptops and IPADs. You will notice that most staff on the floor are carrying IPADs so that they can assist the public where they are, rather than make a customer come to a desk. The additional laptops can also be used for classes eventually.

New back of the house office furniture will be installed the week of January 18th. It will be smaller than our current desk arrangement and will leave more space for our 16 new colorful book carts. We will see if other departments can use our current desk chairs and get replacement chairs to match those in use in our new offices. After we get staff settled in the back, we will be replacing our current check-out desk.

Staff

We were able to post our three previously frozen shelver positions, and one part-time library assistant who recently resigned to accept a full-time teaching position. Staff are currently interviewing candidates for those openings. We have permission to hire our last frozen positions (three part-time library assistants) out of this candidate pool. Soon we will be doing a lot of training, we will get our shelves in good order, and give current staff more time for programming.

Many library staff members were able to get their first COVID vaccinations through the City several weeks ago. The Fire Department had the vaccine for Public Safety and other staff who were able to be present when scheduled. The second round for these staff members will hopefully be next week. We are all grateful that the City was able to offer this to us, since we are front-line workers who work with the public, and not from our homes.