



Games + Art = Community Connections for All Abilities

The setting: a group of people play a guessing game. Each takes a turn picking an animal to “hide” and the other players try to guess what it is. “Is it a horse?” Chris asks.

“Yes!” The group erupts in cheers and congratulations as Chris beams with pleasure.

This is just an example of the types of scenes that play out during Inclusive Adult Games, one of several programs and activities the Library hosts for patrons of all abilities and particularly adults who may have physical, developmental, intellectual, or sensory disabilities.

“Many neurodivergent folks often feel unwelcome in public spaces, whether that is due to inaccessibility of the space, others making them feel unwelcome, and/or feeling anxious in a larger, more crowded place,” says Adah DeRosier, the Adult Services Librarian who facilitates the Inclusive Adult Games program. “Our goal is always to make our programs inclusive, engaging, educational, and fun for everyone.”

Adults of all ages and abilities also come together for the All Abilities Art Club, an open studio-style hour of art-making and community. New materials and themes are offered each month with a focus on creativity and the positive effects of expressing yourself through art.

(cont'd)



IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Michelle: *I like meeting new people and learning new things.*

Carol: *I get to learn new ways to do art.*
(All Abilities Art Club)

Jill: *The people are so nice.*

Tony: *You can pick the games you want to play.*
(Inclusive Games)

2026 LIBRARY BUDGET VOTE & TRUSTEE ELECTION

Thursday, September 11 from 7 am-9 pm

Budget Information Session
Thursday, September 4 at 7 pm



All Abilities Art Show and Reception

Exhibit: October 8-12, 2nd Floor Mezzanine

Reception: Wednesday, October 8, 12-1 pm

A collection of artwork created by the All Abilities Art Club participants will be on display at the Library in October. It will kick off with a reception that all are welcome to attend.

“The participants are excited to see the works they have created throughout the year on display for all to enjoy,” says Adult Services librarian Kaity Stefanidis.



“There has been a lot of pride in the artwork participants create in the All Abilities Art Club,” says Kaity Stefanidis, the Adult Services Librarian who facilitates this program. “We originally expected to have around 10 participants at each All Abilities Art Club session, but the numbers have been much higher, ranging from 18 to 43 patrons in attendance.”

Each of these programs is done in partnership with a community organization that specializes in activities for all ages and abilities.

Inclusible LLC was founded by Diane Guendel, a retired educator with degrees in Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Education. She is on a mission to build inclusible communities using play, where individuals of all ages, experiences, and abilities can connect with others, gain experiences, and just plain have fun.

“Diane has a loyal fan base!”

DeRosier says with a smile.

C.R.E.A.T.E. Community Studios, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to providing a space where the benefits of art-making impact both the individual and the community as a whole, runs the All Abilities Art Club and provides a wide range of artistic and creative activities to encourage experimentation, expressiveness, and enjoyment.

“C.R.E.A.T.E. Community Studios is an amazing partner and they are essential to creating an environment that allows creativity to flourish and these groups to feel welcome,” Stefanidis says.

Nancy Yarry, a Direct Support Professional for Community Habitation for Liberty ARC, often brings groups of people to the Library and counts on it as a resource to help them explore their community.

“We visit CPH Library at least three times a month as there is always

something new and exciting offered that fosters personal growth, while always making us feel welcome!” This is exactly what the CPH librarians are hoping to accomplish, according to Stefanidis.

“The Library is a place where everyone in the community is welcome, and where everyone can find materials, spaces, and services to benefit them,” she notes.

That also includes Therapy Dog programs, a Sensory Room, and Sensory Kits.

“We are hoping to build community with and among these groups, provide safe and welcoming spaces, and support continuous learning, creativity, and enrichment for them—just as we hope to do for every member of the community,” she says.

DeRosier couldn't agree more. “We are building and fostering community within the Library, one program at a time.”

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