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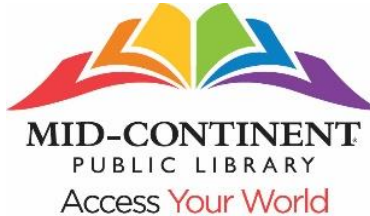
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‘Creative Aging’: Art Classes Offer Creativity and Connection for Seniors

MCPL Hosts Reception to Celebrate Grant-Funded Healthy Aging Initiative on Dec. 16

Gladstone, MO – On Monday, December 16, at 11:30 a.m., Mid-Continent Public Library’s Antioch Branch (6060 N Chestnut Ave., Gladstone, Mo.) will host an art show and reception for participants of a new grant-funded workshop series called Creative Aging. Starting in October, the Library offered an eight-week cumulative drawing course for local residents ages 55 and older as part of a grant-funded initiative* that was launched to support lifelong learning among seniors and combat loneliness.

“The goal of this series is to empower our older customers by helping them build skills they can use to foster healthy aging,” said Beth Loecke, MCPL Adult Programming Librarian. “The workshops are a fun and engaging way for seniors to tap into their creativity and showcase their talents! The pieces included in the art show reception are quite impressive, and we encourage the community come see and celebrate these artists.”

During the eight-week series at MCPL’s Antioch Branch, 20 adults learned various drawing techniques, including shading, blending, and perspective, led by Linda Nickell, an award-winning artist who has displayed her work in galleries around the metro. Nickell is also an experienced art educator and previously served as the manager of school programs at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

MCPL will offer five more rounds of the Creative Aging series in 2025—one in Lee’s Summit through a partnership with John Knox Village, three in the Kansas City Northland including Northern Platte County and Kearney, and another Eastern Jackson County. The programs are free to attend but require registration. **More information about the series, including how to register and which MCPL branches will offer the classes, will be updated on the Library’s website (mymcpl.org/Events) in the coming months.**

** Advancing Creative Aging Through State Library Leadership Initiative is a joint initiative of Califa Group, Wyoming State Library, Missouri State Library, and Lifetime Arts. It was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant.*

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Access Your World

Founded in 1965, [Mid-Continent Public Library](#) is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 34 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 850,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).