

An interview with Marissa Alcorta about the Frank De La Cruz Collection

Who can visit the collection?

Anyone can visit and browse the collection. If you'd like to borrow a book from the collection and take it home you'll need to get a library card, which is quick, easy, and free. You just need a government issued picture ID!

Will this collection be temporary or permanent?

The Frank De La Cruz collection will be a permanent collection that will hopefully be available to the community for years to come.

What do you love most about the collection?

I love that this collection is in honor of Frank De La Cruz, whom I knew personally. I think he would have loved it and be pleased that it's available to the community he loved. I also love that it focuses on Latinx, Chicanx, Indigenous themes and subjects that community members, especially youth, may not have access to in school.

What book in the collection is your favorite?

I don't have just one, but I am really interested in the cooking books we have in the collection, as well as the books on Curanderismo.

Do you think the FDLC Collection will expand? If so, how?

Yes, the FDLC collection will continue to grow as new culturally relevant books are published. We want the collection to be vibrant and growing and not a stagnant and dated collection, so adding materials to it is an important part of that process. We are adding books to the collection as I write this.

Why was Quincie Douglas the chosen home for the collection?

Quincie Douglas Library was chosen as the branch to house the collection for a variety of reasons. It's centrally located in the city and easy to access, we had the space to house the physical book collection on our shelves and have room for growth. The curating librarian of the collection, Lu Guerrero, was working at Quincie Douglas when the collection was in its infancy

and it was important for her to have access to it as we worked out logistics during the collection debut period. That being said, we are discussing ways the collection may one day be held at the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library or nearer to that branch community as it is named in honor of Frank.

Why did you become a librarian?

I became a librarian by accident, but it's a career choice that I am happy I made. I find it fulfilling in that I can make small differences in customer's lives, from outreach, programming, social service resources, job help, computer basics, or their next book to read for fun. I like helping customers get access to our amazing resources and services for all ages and do a little good on a daily basis when the world can be a difficult place for many to navigate right now. I was part of the University of Arizona's School of Information Knowledge River Program. This program focuses on recruitment of BiPOC librarians, especially those from Latinx and Indigenous communities. Being part of this program was wonderful in that I was able to find a career path that allowed me to give back and work with those cultural and linguistic communities where I was raised and where I still feel a strong connection. I also know across librarianship, BiPOC staff are underrepresented and I think it's so important to be able to work in the library and be part of the staff that are reflective of the communities we serve.