
DATE: June 2, 2022

TO: Library Board, Pima County Public Library
Pima County Board of Supervisors
Pima County Administration
Friends of the Pima County Public Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Arivaca Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library, Board of Directors
Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Michelle Simon
Deputy Director, Support Services

SUBJECT: Support Services Report – April-May 2022

Facilities Projects - Ken McDonald, Facilities Administrative Specialist

Martha Cooper Library – 100% Construction Documents have been submitted for review by Pima County. The bid opening will be on May 17, 2022. The library will close toward the end of June or beginning of July. Detailed information will be provided in the near future.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – The library is closed until July 5, 2022 for new carpet, furniture, and staff room renovations. The project is well underway.

Library Service Manager Reports

Administration – Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager

Pima County Public Library – Report to the Steering Committee of the Tucson Festival of Books

Author Levi Romero wrote “May the Tucson Festival of Books continue to nurture authors, the literary community, and the wonderful people of Tucson.” Authors, publishers and artists not only present in our venue, but they also devote time in the community outside of the festival to reach out and give back. “I am always trying to think of ways to draw in more local people to the actual festival and promote literacy and the love of books,” said Santino J. Rivera. In 2022, anticipating the first in-person festival in two years, generating excitement about and outreach around the festival was the focus of the Pima County Public Library’s (PCPL) Tucson Festival of Books (TFOB) team.

In August, a Program Collaborators in Residence (PCR) team formed in support of PCPL’s TFOB effort. PCR team efforts joined around the staff affinity teams, Nuestras Raíces and Many Nations, and their values of developing respectful partnerships with the sovereign Native Nations of Pima County and Latinx and Spanish-speaking populations, as well as educating our communities about PCPL’s resources through outreach. For TFOB 2022 the PCPL team

proposed to orchestrate a series of outreach events and programming support that foster these communities' roots and traditions.

The Program Collaborators goal was to engage up to 100 Pascua Yaqui tribal members who had never been involved with the Festival and to begin new collaborations around TFOB. The goal was met three times over. By creating cooperative programming with the UA Press and working with Pueblo High School, New Pascua, the Dr. Fernando Escalante Library, the Venito Garcia Library in Sells, and the Zeta Chapter of the Alpha Bi Omega (Native American sorority), we connected with approximately 120 tribal members at our tent and more than 200 high school students through outreach. The effort also encouraged three busloads of Tohono O'odham tribal members from Sells, Arizona to attend the festival for the first time. As Margie Trujillo-Farmer, our literary arts librarian and PCPL's Book and Author committee representative said, "This was a first for our team and a way to promote more diversity at the Festival."

Well over 1000 people attended special events and standout author panels at the Nuestras Raíces venue. There was on-the-Border reporting, Diné music and poetry, Latinx stories, Hopi voices, Chicana short stories, and a wonderful Sing-Me-a-Story. As always, the venue supported the building of home libraries and learning as staff volunteers gave out almost 2000 books and grab 'n go craft kits for children and families. Some give-away books were in the Chinese language, courtesy of the PCPL Biblio Lotus team and their partners at the Chinese Cultural Center. Local bookstore, Barrio Books, was also on exhibit and sold out of its merchandise. Local artwork by Mel Dominguez rounded out the backdrop for place holding and place making on campus.

PCPL Virtual Program Support Librarian and outreach specialist Carl Murdoc reports that everything went almost perfectly with the PCPL teen-author interviews, which happen on Saturday of the Festival. All the teens got their books well ahead of time and prepared a battery of excellent questions. He commented that he is always "amazed by how very good their questions really are, and how positively authors respond to them." Ibi Zobo was unable to attend the festival in person, but Carl mentioned that a Zoom meeting with them "came off flawlessly." Listen now to the Author interviews from this year's Tucson Festival of Books

PCPL's Southwest Books of the Year and Writer in Residence presentations were packed in and masked up to the limit. Writer in Residence Wynne Browne says an emerging theme that people need is "how to find community in the writing life." What better way to do that than through the robust writing and author programs at TFOB? Everyone remarked upon the fabulous weather and wonderful turn out on the UA mall after a two-year hiatus. It was a great opportunity for our staff to meet the community, to loan out the giant chess and checkers pieces, and to park the Bookmobile, at this, the largest event we collaborate on and sponsor. The bookmobile had 1305 people visit. It was a fantastic weekend.

All the same, PCPL had to make a number of modifications this year related to its participation and the Pandemic, especially in light of an unprecedented staffing turnover. PCPL Administration, the Literary Arts Office, and our representatives from the BAC and Steering Committee will be working with a small team of our staff, decision makers and stakeholders on an internal After Action Review (AAR) about the Festival so that we can continue to improve the experience.

Report prepared by Beth Matthias-Loghry and Amy Rusk
PCPL representatives to the Tucson Festival of Books Steering Committee.
4/15/2022

Communications and Systems Office – Jen Maney and Reneé Bibby, Program Managers

Current Projects

Current projects that we're working on in the office include:

- LGBTQ+ author talk in May: Carlos Valenzuela
- Biblio Lotus author talk in May: Dan Santat
- One Seed 2022: Marigold
- 10th Anniversary of the Seed Library and Bookbike
- Bikeep bike locks at Sam Lena-South Tucson
- Writer in Residence starting in May: Lori Alexander
- Planter re-fresh at Joel D. Valdez Main Library
- Updated hours in May for branches going to six days
- Summer Learning
- Library closures for remodels
- New web pages for Library presenter solicitations

Staffing Updates

Our Social Media Librarian position is open as a transfer opportunity internally, so we hope to have someone chosen sometime in May. Three Program Specialist recruitments will go out, hopefully by April 29, for the web team. These new positions will support all of our online services in addition to our staff intranet.

Online Resources Consortium

Jessica Pryde has been working with the statewide group and the State Library to renew our contracts for online resources that we get via the statewide consortium. A new contract will be in place in the next few months. This cost-sharing consortium keeps prices down for libraries in Arizona.