

DATE: September 1, 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 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: Karyn Prechtel-Altman
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Community Engagement Report – August, 2022

The Tucson Festival of Books cadre of dedicated volunteers, including library staff, are gearing up for the March 2023 in-person festival. The Nuestras Raíces/PCPL tent will once again host authors that reflect the bicultural Latinx experience.

We have decided to extend the Library's 2020-2022 Community Impact Plan through 2023. The pandemic slowed our progress and we continue to have many goals to work on this coming year. At the same time, we will also start up our 2024-2027 Strategic Planning process, using a new tool from the Futures School called Strategic Foresight.

As part of the Library's involvement in a Health Literacy Grant, I attended a planning session with Dalberg Design (a human-centered design approach) and all of the grant partners at the Health Department. The goal of the session was to discuss and identify opportunities related to an increase in COVID-19 vaccination, and an improvement in health literacy overall. I am grateful to Data Analyst Sandy White who has been attending the grant meetings and communicating regularly with the Health Department on this grant.

Latinx Program Manager – Hassael Cazesuz

Early August was a busy time for Spot-Checking translated text from English to Spanish. Our current system set in place is effective; however, it does not substitute the need for a Translator position for the Pima County Public Library. There have been conversations with Library Administration about this need. Especially considering that Bilingual Pay is not equitably available for Pima County employees. Furthermore, I have been personally excited with the recent request from community organizations that have been reaching out to library to collaborate with programming that focuses on the Latinx communities in Pima County. I am currently assessing the bandwidth available for our affinity team Nuestras Raíces to see how we can support these upcoming events. An internal program that is being planned right now is a kick-off event at the Valencia Library to celebrate the Latinx communities with Mes de la cultura (nationally recognized as Hispanic Heritage Month). We are in the process of inviting local youth talent to perform culturally relevant performances. We are also working with Carolina and

Reneé (our PCPL colleagues) to create an original coloring sheet in order to prepare a cultural grab n go kit for the event – one that we can share with local schools and other community partners so that we can *bring the library to them*.

Program Manager for Literacy and Connected Learning – Kendra Davey

The theme of summer learning in 2022 was Oceans of Possibilities and kids and teens definitely had oceans of possible ways to stay engaged with learning this summer at the library. PCPL enrolled over 12,000 children and teens this summer and gave away over 22,000 books. CEO staff created four STEM learning activities and distributed 6,000 of these activities to the community. Each learning activity was ocean themed giving kid the opportunity to learn about sharks and biomimicry, ocean conservation and jellyfish, sea turtles and the math concept of probabilities through a fun ocean themed game. We also continued the Story Sketches program where kids could write and illustrate a story and PCPL staff recorded the audio and posted the story on PCPL's YouTube channel. Six stories were submitted and they have been watched 167 times.

Story Sketches https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7Zjqps_9MbOdXFSIbo62ZZJIHqiFIUIZ

Program Manager for Workforce and Economic Development – Ken Zambos

This month, Pima County Public Library's Career Online High School program has scheduled 15 virtual interviews, which is the last step for applicants to be considered for a scholarship to enroll in the program. The first two steps include the initial application called the *Are You Ready survey*, followed by a two-week prerequisite course. Those who complete the two-week course get a chance to interview with library staff to get a scholarship and enroll to get their high school diploma at no personal cost.

Library staff have noticed a recent uptick in prerequisite course completions, resulting in more interviews and more scholarships awarded! Most applicants making it to the final interview step have mentioned finding out about the opportunity through someone who is currently enrolled in the program or who has graduated from it. Career Online High School staff have noticed that this makes a difference in students' successes, having the support of someone who has been through the program and the motivation that comes from seeing other members of their community being successful.