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**DATE:** November 3, 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 – October, 2022**

Kendra and Karyn attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> cross-department meeting on the topic of serving youth – also in attendance were representatives from various parts of the Juvenile Justice system, the Health Department, and the School Superintendents office among others. Karyn facilitated another meeting with the Health Department and the School Superintendents office regarding the County’s approach to Trauma Informed Care. We are excited about partnering with the Health Department and Human Resources on our Trauma Informed Care LSTA Grant this coming year.

I had the opportunity and honor to join the Library’s Many Nations team on a visit the Dr. Fernando Escalante Library in New Pascua. We met with Director Annette Leyva and Librarian Diana Centeno to review our Inter-governmental agreement and discuss the four elements of our partnership in the coming year.

Staff of the Columbus library and I met with Dr. Joy Mockbee from the El Río/Cherrybell Health Center. El Río is hiring two physicians who specialize in *Street Medicine* and they would like to partner with the Columbus library to serve that immediate community. Pima County Health Department’s Mobile Reproductive Health Clinic has been serving teens of childbearing age for some time, and as they expand the program to adults, they are looking to the library to host mobile clinic at several of our locations. I hope to be able to share more details in the coming months.

**Program Manager for Literacy and Connected Learning – Kendra Davey**

The Literacy Initiatives team was very busy during the last three months. Student Support Librarian Leila Duncan made several new connections with teachers and students. She provided professional development training on PCPL e-resources for all middle and high school teachers of the Tucson Unified Virtual Academy. Leila also visited several schools to help students learn about library resources including Sopori Elementary school in Amado. Kendra Davey attended the Love of Literacy event hosted by the Children’s Museum. It was a fun event with hundreds of families. The Bookmobile was also at the event which was fun for the kids and parents.

### **Program Manager for Workforce and Economic Development – Ken Zambos**

This month, the Pima County Public Library officially launched the Health Connect program at the Caviglia-Arivaca Library and the Salazar-Ajo Library. Health Connect is a service that provides secure and private environments for individuals to connect with their doctors. It also gives access to technology and devices that can be used in conjunction with telehealth appointments. On October 1, Health Connect was a featured part of the Arivaca Community Health day.

The three-hour event in Arivaca included several local and regional health and social service resource providers, and included several live demonstrations of the telehealth equipment that is the cornerstone of the Health Connect program. With over 120 visitors and 472 reported resource provider and community member exchanges, the kick-off event was a huge success.

In October, the Pima County Public Library also launched basic computer literacy programming in conjunction with the Public Library Association Digital Learn initiative. This initiative is grant-based, and is designed to help individuals build skills and confidence using technology. Pima County Public Library is offering classes in English and Spanish, and offered the first workshop in Spanish on Saturday October 15. Attendance for the Saturday workshop was at capacity, and attendees were able to work directly with Library instructors to learn about Internet basics.

The Pima County Public Library also helped with logistical planning in support of the DREAM job fair, scheduled on October 19. The library will be providing ten laptops and ten hotspots, and will have five staff members working directly with job seekers completing resumes and online applications in order to obtain employment. Two additional staff will be working at a resource table to raise awareness of library programs and services designed to support community members.

Additionally, the library will be hosting a computer basics workshop as part of the Fresh Start Expo at the Tucson Convention Center on October 22. This workshop is also part of the national Digital Learn Initiative, and library staff will be providing this workshop to help increase access to digital skill development opportunities within Pima County.

### **Quarterly Reports for Cultural Affinity Teams and Seed Library**

#### **Biblio Lotus – Sharon Yang-McNeil**

Biblio Lotus continues to create content that highlights Asian Cultures such as books list of Indian Festival –Diwali, and Chinese learning blog. In August the team hosted Hawaiian Hula Dance, where people learned the island culture, participants included adults, teens and children who loved to dress up and dance with music; In September the team invited Asian music group to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Moon Festival. The performance was well received. They learned about the traditional instruments and even tried some of them at the end. One customer stayed after the show to record a piece of the song for her grandchild who missed the program.

Biblio Lotus started to partner with Seeds Library and reached out to Mission Garden, It is sacred to the Tohono O'odham and a place of over 4,100 documented years of agriculture.

The Seed Library and Biblio Lotus visited Mission Garden with the goal of collaborating on bringing attention to one important piece of Tucson history that should never be forgotten: the Chinese immigrants who came here at first in 1860, and then increased in numbers in the 1880s with the railway construction. After the visit we came up with the first project, which is to purchase children's books focusing on immigration and local plants, the books will be donated to Bookworm Path –an educational program in Mission Garden for youth/kids. We hope this will add more cultural elements to this hand on learning

### **LGBTQ+ - Kaitlyn Sparks and Ray Baca**

The LGBTQ+ Services Committee's 25th Anniversary Author Talk Series has come to an end with our finale Author Talk featuring Benjamin Alire Saenz on October 15. The event took place at Tucson High Magnet School and had over 75 attendees. We had multiple organizations table at the event such as Youth on Their Own, Tucson Museum of Contemporary Art, Barrio Books and our very own Seed Library. Along with the event came the unveiling of our new name, Pride, and our new logo! Benjamin gave a talk, participated in an interview, and answered questions from the audience. Attendees enjoyed activities like button making and were even able to meet and get their books signed by Benjamin himself. Past author talk authors, Jessica Pryde and Carlos Valenzuela, also participated in the event.

On October 1 Pride also participated in the Tucson Pride Festival. Members of the team gave out free books, bookmarks, stickers and tons of information about library programs to attendees of the festival. Hundreds of people visited our table.

Our Rainbow Reads Book Club had 33 participants this quarter. The *One True Me and You* by Remi K. England and *The Jasmine Throne* by Tasha Suri were books discussed. We were able to reach 8,860 accounts and grow our following to 1,159 on our Pride Instagram page.

### **Kindred – Jessica Pryde**

Kindred continues to prepare for the launch of *Our Story: A Communities of Color Curation Project*, which will allow community members to check out kits that will allow them to preserve memories in digital formats. That project was made possible for an LSTA grant, and will be up and running soon. Members of Kindred have been enrolled in coursework related to genealogy, community archiving, and African American history in order to support programming connected to the project.

The team also continues to lead Zoom discussions for the Read Black Book Club every fourth Saturday of the month. The past few selections have been *Blackout* by Dhonielle Clayton et al, *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates, and *The Sweetest Remedy* by Jane Igharo. We are in the process of selecting the books for 2023.

Kindred recently took on an intern in the University of Arizona's Knowledge River program. She will be involved in producing Kindred-related materials for the website, and planning spring programming based around wellness and community.

### **Nuestras Raíces – Hassael Cazesuz**

With the return of programming and outreach, the Nuestras Raíces affinity team has been excited to provide cultural programming back to the community. For this quarter, Nuestras was busy with planning and orchestrating the return of the Mexican Consulate to honor the Mexican Heritage and culture in Pima County with a Mexican Independence traditional ceremony at Valencia Library. Several members of the team helped invite talented local Mariachi and Folklórico youth groups to showcase their art for this event. This event, which was titled, *El Grito*, generated a great audience and proved to NR as well as PCPL that our community is receptive of such cultural programming amidst the pandemic. Therefore, the Nuestras Raíces team has been encouraged to keep working on ways to highlight the Latinx, Mexican-American, Chicax and Spanish speaking communities of Pima County through cultural displays. Upcoming, some branches will have the opportunity to create community for Día de Muertos celebrations coming up in early November.

Additionally, the Nuestras Raíces team has also been focusing on preparing for the 2023 Tucson Festival of Books. The NR team has been working closely with compiling lists of potential Latinx and Indigenous authors to highlight and amplify their work in our dedicated tent. We are excited about the potential of talented voices that will have an opportunity to share their

art with our communities. The next phase for the following quarter will be to create panels that best illustrate the author's works as well as potential programming to highlight our incoming guests and generate excitement leading into the festival.

### **Many Nations – Amy Rusk**

The Many Nations team held an election for its new team chair and co-chair - Sila Gonzalez, who is Yaqui, and Danielle Martinez, who is Black Mountain Apache and Yaqui. Sila and members of the team have been meeting regularly with the library staff at the Dr. Fernando Escalante Library in New Pascua to work on executing the recently-adopted Intergovernmental agreement (IGA). Within the last quarter, the team has acquired four new members! Felt Grab-and Go bookmarks are in the works for holiday programming, as well as new book giveaways. Team members continue to collect discarded materials for the Spread the Wealth Program to distribute to the various Native communities with which the team works.

### **Seed Library – Lu Guerrero**

October marks the end of our One Seed Pima County program. Since March of 2022, over 6,000 packets of Crackerjack Marigolds have made their way into the community. The One Seed Team increased our reach into the community by collaborating with affinity teams Nuestras Raíces and Many Nations. This year, we also reached more school gardens, including The UA School Garden program.

The Seed Library attended a number of outreach events in October. The team shared information about Seed Library services and distributed approximately 1,200 seed packs at Tucson Meet Yourself, Tucson Organic Gardeners Plant Fair 2022, Trees Please Garden, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the LGBTQ+ Services Committee and The Green Academy: Marigold Mania (UA Community and School Garden Program). This month, the team resumed monthly outreach participation at the Santa Cruz River Farmer's Market.

In-person programs return this fall with the University of Arizona Agricultural Extension's Master Gardeners. Eight library locations will host Garden Talks once a month from October to May. Library locations consistently receive seed donations, by patrons and partner organizations, such as the Community Food Bank. Seed Library members at Valencia Library attended the *Train the Trainer* event at the Community Food Bank garden on DIY self-watering containers. Trainees are now hosting an event to share this knowledge with colleagues, and plan to offer public workshops in the future.

The team collaborated with The Garden Kitchen, Mission Garden, and La Galería Mitotera to support small satellite seed sharing sites; each location created spaces for displaying and sharing seeds from Second Chance Seeds (our culled seed surplus) with visitors to their outreach events. The International Rescue Committee's *New Roots Garden* and mutual aid collective *Tucson Food Share* also collected seeds from the Second Chance Seeds collection to utilize in their community garden projects. The Seed Library Processing Team collaborates with student interns at the Garden Kitchen (UA College of Agricultural & Life Sciences) to process incoming seed donations.

Mission Garden and the Biblio Lotus team are partnering with the Seed Library to cultivate more knowledge about the history of seed stewardship in this region, and integrate heritage seeds grown by the county's diverse Asian communities into the library's seed collection. The Biblio Lotus team arranged a tour of the Mission Garden where Seed Library staff learned about heritage fruit trees, traditional local heirloom crops, and edible native plants. October's Seed Library community email newsletter spotlighted this partnership event. See pictures of the tour on the Seed Library's new Instagram account - [@pcplseedlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/pcplseedlibrary).

The University of Arizona's School of Natural Resources and the Environment hosted a webinar where Seed Libraries from across the country told their stories and shared best practices. Members of the PCPL Seed Library Team shared some lessons learned in our 10 years of operation.

**Synapse** – Heather Severson

The Synapse Affinity Team is making its official launch this month. We introduced PCPL Staff to the team via an Intranet announcement, which resulted in the addition of two new enthusiastic team members. The webpage will be live as of October 21, and a press release will be sent out on October 25. Team members and Knowledge River Intern Katherine Davis are creating book and resource lists. Subcommittees are planning events for the coming year, and identifying books to support collection development. Members of the Youth Health Action Team at the Woods Memorial Library contribute ideas for content, topics, and events.

**Welcome to America** – Tara Foxx-Lupo

The Welcome to America Team members have been working on marketing the new digital multi-lingual collections available through Overdrive/Libby. Flyers have been produced and distributed to all locations and to community partners whose clientele might benefit from these materials. Use of these collections is being monitored by Welcome to America Team members and Collection Development staff to determine efficacy of having them in an online format.

Another collections project underway is a Hi-Lo collections project. Hi-Lo books are considering high interest, low-level materials. They are intended for adults learning English and English language speakers who struggle with reading. The materials contain interesting and relevant subjects, at reading levels more accessible to those using them. Collection development staff is in the process of ordering the materials and our graphics team has created a unique spine label to help identify these materials for shelving and discoverability. Each branch will have a small section with these materials to ensure they are available to anyone seeking them out.

In the month of October, the Welcome to America team was able to staff an outreach table at the annual Tucson Meet Yourself cultural festival. The PCPL table was located in the courtyard of the historic Pima County Courthouse alongside many other county departments. The table was a popular stop for community members, and staff engaged with many people who wished to share their love of the public library and all of the services we provide. At the table, staff gave away children's books in a variety of languages and a variety of other takeaway items like team stickers, seed library coloring books and seeds, bookmarks and copies of the Taste of Belonging Cookbook. Produced by Welcoming America, a network of organizations dedicated to making their communities a welcoming place for immigrants, of which PCPL is a member organization.