
DATE: January 5, 2023

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: Marissa Alcorta
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Public Services Report – December 2022

I have recently transitioned in this new role as Deputy Director of Public Services/Customer Experience. I am currently working with our Director, Amber, and all the other Deputy Directors to learn all the aspects of this new position. I am also working with our five new LSM's for Public Services to help with their training and successful transition to these new roles as well. It's been a month of learning and I am happy to be attending the Library Board meetings and reporting on all the wonderful services and programming our branches are offering to the community.

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

After successfully completing the competitive hiring process for the Library Services Manager (LSM) position, my detail assignment became permanent this month. While I have been overseeing and supporting seven branches during this past year, the retirement of one of our LSM's added four more branches to my roster temporarily. However, we now have five LSM's in public services (including myself) that will be supporting five to six branches each, which gives everyone the opportunity to focus more time and resources to each location. All this to say that, we are in the midst of a major transition in public services, which is very exciting.

My duties this month included one-on-one meetings with several managers as well as our monthly manager's meeting. There was a special focus on reviewing branch plans during the one-on-one meetings, which proved productive. Other important meetings included conversations regarding our display policy and procedures (i.e. Call to Artists) as well as our guidelines when addressing Code of Conduct issues. I am proud to say that our department is being extremely intentional and using an anti-racist and DEIA lens when evaluating our policies and procedures, which is extremely important work. I do want to recognize too, though, that this take a tremendous amount of emotional labor, especially to BIPOC staff.

I cannot end this report without mentioning the beautiful celebration that took place to honor the renaming of the Mission Library to the Richard Elías – Mission Library. It is common knowledge that Mr. Elías was a big proponent of libraries. Anybody who came into contact with him quickly

learned how much he loved libraries. It was an absolute honor to be able to be part of the team that helped this amazing event happen.

Library Services Manager - Sharla Ronstadt

I temporarily supervised ten (10) branch managers and eleven (11) buildings as we transitioned to new Library Service Managers hired this month. I continued coaching an Interim Manager in a Detail Assignment, working Saturdays in rotation and helping at branches when needed due to staff shortages this month. In addition, I assisted two managers with renovation planning of their back staff areas and meeting with county interior designers. I am active on the TaCT, Trauma Informed Care, and In charge Teams, attending meetings and helping with tasks as assigned. I took on two additional affinity teams as Admin liaison during the leadership transition period (Welcome to America and Biblio Lotus). I completed 2 out of 4 sessions of the Public Manager Certification Program this month. I assisted the Substitute Librarian Supervisor as backup, making some timesheet changes and arranging a meeting with Library Service Managers to help clarify the communication process for future Substitute location changes. In addition, I continue to track, as best I can, the staffing levels for the system, noting transfers, retirements, resignations, etc.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Library patrons young and old enjoyed a number of programs this month that were as tame as making holiday cards (some of them pop-up!) and as unpredictable as children conducting basic vet work on a miniature horse! We handed out a total of 65 craft kits for kits to do at home that featured winter scenes, rocks, and mental health. Dewhirst-Catalina Library looks forward to a new year of many more programs, crafts, and initiatives with local partners as organizations including the library forge relationships anew. We already have planned a chemistry program at the Catalina Community Center that holds many more kids at a time and an outreach event at the Coronado K-8 School in March. The calendar is filling up.

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

Dusenberry-River Library will close out December and 2022 with much to look forward to in the coming year. This month gave us a primer to programs that engaged our teen patron base that had yet to return to programming in numbers exhibited prior to pandemic. We worked jointly with our Teen Advisory Board to create a Winter Extravaganza that captivated our largest number to date of teenagers via themed movie, snacks and crafts. This was on the heels of another successful teen event, Mini Vet, which had a fair amount of interest from teens that wanted to engage with miniature horse while learning about veterinarian profession. It truly is about making programs from a teen perspective. Staff is making remarkable progress in reimagining the space where our children's books are located. We expect this most browsed collection will have a greater intuitive setup to go along with child-centered structures and furniture. Adults continue to express genuine interest in our popular Art in the Afternoon program we have on hiatus for the holiday season, 1-on-1 Tech Help and writing group and multiple book clubs that we are hosting. In addition to hosting various civic-minded groups, this December also saw much appreciation from patrons for Pima County for distributing COVID tests. We go into next year having laid the foundation for providing something for everyone.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini Library staff stayed busy in December with school visits and hosting popular programs. Earlier in the month, staff visited Hendricks and Donaldson Elementary schools in Flowing Wells and Amphitheater districts respectively, talking to hundreds of kids and their caregivers at each event and distributing free books and library-branded school supplies. Later in the month our Teen Services librarian visited Mountain View High School where she met with 60 students in the National Honor Society to promote Nanini's Teen Advisory Board.

Beginning in January the Northwest Readers Book Club will return to hosting only in-person meetings. The few remaining online book club attendees were provided with other options for online library-sponsored book clubs. For the last 2.5 years, the Nanini Adult Services Librarians have been working diligently to engage with community members and even some out-of-state readers to facilitate book discussions each month. This online format provided one of PCPL's first programs to the public during the early phases of COVID-19. Other popular programs in December have included a puppet show, playing with "snow" in storytime, and a gift-wrapping decorating program.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

This month the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association (TAAA) and library staff hosted a *Star Party*. The public joined library staff and TAAA members for 90 minutes of sky watching and hot cocoa. That night, Jupiter and its moons were in conjunction with a gibbous moon. About 60 participants learned more about the night sky, as TAAA members made available their personal telescopes for public use.

Kids and families enjoyed a Family Movie Afternoon viewing of *Encanto*, the 2021 Disney animated fantasy film. Kids wore jammies, brought stuffed toys and blankets, and snuggled up while watching the movie. Plenty of popcorn was on hand, and glow sticks were available to make the event more magical. Afterward, viewers learned how to make *flores de papel* (tissue-paper flowers).

We had our first classroom visits since the pandemic this month. Three first grade classes received library cards, toured the library, and had a special storytime. Children were able to checkout a book to take home with their library card. We saw several of the children return to the library with their families later in the week to get more books and show their parents around the library!

This month, all libraries began offering free COVID-19 test kits; the Pima County Health Department press releases and media coverage increased demand, bringing in more potential library users. Halfway through the month, we had already had given away over 2,000 of the kits.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

Eckstrom-Columbus library is abuzz this holiday season. We were the inaugural library location for the Pima County Health Department Mobile Health Clinic where our community members took advantage of free COVID and Flu vaccines, COVID tests, and reproductive health services. It was a great success and we look forward to having them back in August.

Our Adult Services team hosted a fun Painting with Dolores Haro this month. The program brought smiles to all with great artistic outcomes. The Red Herring Puppeteers delighted toddlers and parents with the "Ugly Duckling" puppet show. Our Preschool, Toddler and Baby

Storytimes continue to build an audience each week. We continue to offer bi-lingual drop in Job help, and Homework Help for those in need.

As always, our afterschool and adult snack programs along with our COVID test distribution continue to prove popular amongst our patrons. Our Bookbike attended the 29th Street Thrive Block Party where we distributed over eighty books to our community members.

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

Artist Jennie Sweo has her beautiful artwork up on the walls of Quincie Douglas Library during the month of December. We also hosted a painting class with artist Dolores Haro—a group of customers painted lovely “Cafecito” paintings with step by step instructions from the artist.

Our children's librarian created a holiday themed scavenger hunt for kids. When they find fun items like poinsettias and stockings in the library and check them off their lists, they get a prize from our treasure chest! Crafternoon is also planned for the weeks when kids are off to school. Teens have been enjoying writing six word memoirs as a prompt in the teen section.

We are still giving out snacks and food from the Community Food Bank agency market program, as well as COVID test kits and holiday survival grab-n-go kits from the Synapse team.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

We held a fun Gingerbread Yoga Storytime on December 6th and 28th. Participants enjoyed doing yoga poses as the storyline of the book developed. We're also excited to host a Country Concert for Kids by Mama Coal on December 28! Storytime and Babytime is still very popular, though we're taking a short break over the holidays. In the meantime, we're offering takeaway Nature-to-Go rock activities from Pima County Natural Resources and other book displays with fun activities for families to do over break.

We're thrilled to be hosting a solo exhibition by local artist, Amy Novelli. Her vibrant large-scale paintings centered around animals, flowers, and landscapes are on display in the Children and Teen areas.

This month's adult book club selection was *The Girl With the Louding Voice* by Abi Daré. We've also been offering one-on-one appointments for computer/tech help this month. Representatives from the Santa Cruz Heritage Alliance visited us on December 11th to give a presentation on the Santa Cruz Valley, which stretches from Marana to Nogales and includes the Santa Cruz River and its watershed where rich and diverse cultural traditions have blossomed for over 4,000 years.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

Sam Lena-South Tucson kicked off the month of December hosting VII Encuentro Internacional Sobre Comunicación, Frontera y Movimientos Emergentes, in partnership with Universidad de Sonora and the UA College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The two-day conference featured presentations by local community members, artists and organizations, as well as scholars focused on the historical and cultural impact of Indigenous and Mexican communities along the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands.

The library also hosted a Free Legal Clinic focused on Marijuana Expungement and Civil Rights Restoration. Volunteers and organizers from UA James E. Rodgers College of Law were present to assist and direct community members through the paperwork process and answer related questions. MegaScience Meg was a guest presenter this month with the youth-focused

program, Ocean Habitats. Participants had the opportunity to engage in live action skits and design their own sand painting.

Job help services, faxing, COVID Test Kit distribution and copying were all in high demand this month. Our snack programs for youth and adults are consistently relied upon by our customers.

Santa Rosa Library – Victoria Villanueva

Happy Holidays from Santa Rosa Library! We have kicked off the winter season with decorations and book displays to exemplify the changing of the weather. We also welcomed two (paper) penguins, Noodle and Pesto, who like to play hide and seek in our shelves. The little penguin twins have been encouraging our young readers to explore what the library has to offer beyond computer games and snacks and teaches them about the organization of where different types of books are in the library and how to find the one you are looking for.

While it may be getting colder outside we are staying warm in the library with our abundant programming. This month we were honored to have magic shows, LED Throwies and card making, as well clay pottery.

We have many thanks to our community partner the Southern Arizona Community Food Bank for supplying us with our children's favorite treats this month as we award our young patrons for their acts of kindness and good will towards the library and its users. As well with great support of the food bank we have been able to provide our young patrons with the chance to decorate their own graham cracker house and cookies.

Covid Test kits have been in high demand this month and we are more than happy to help out both the Pima County Health Department and our community members in any way we can to stay safe this season.

District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

The Friends of the Caviglia-Arivaca Library Annual Holiday Tea was a lovely event, and well attended despite being a rainy day. We enjoyed each other's company while listening to live jazz and chatting about books and life. Our Teen Advisory Board, led by Library Associate Madian Romero, has been busy creating an Escape Room from the ground up for Valentine's Day. They also dressed up as elves to help with Arivaca's Candy Shack fundraiser for the Arivaca Fire Department Auxiliary.

The Caviglia-Arivaca Library was thrilled to be a host site for Pima County's new Digital Navigator, Daniella. We look forward to collaborating with local non-profits and churches to ensure the community is aware of what a great resource this is to have in Arivaca. This month Library Associate Madian Romero and Page Merrilee Steely visited the San Fernando School with a seasonal program with stories and activities. Branch Manager Jodi Ohlson visited the Arivaca Early Learning Center to share information about developing early literacy skills in children, and the resources available from the library to support them and their families.

Flowing Wells Library – Tara Foxx-Lupo

Adult programming is building momentum with computer classes, job help and one-on-one tech help available. While these programs are not heavily attended, marketing is ongoing and we anticipate increased use in the New Year.

Flowing Wells library staff have been happy to see a steady attendance building for our Family, Baby and Toddler Storytimes. Our children's librarian has also been offering a stay and play program just after Storytime and families are happy to stay for this informal program to continue their children's enrichment. Our young adult patrons are beginning to enjoy our T3 (Teen Tech Time) program, offered along with snack time, to keep their brains fueled for the tech learning they are doing.

As we lead up to the holidays our young adult services librarian is hosting a special Winter Days event for teens and tweens with cookie decorating, crafts made from recycled materials, hot cocoa and a classic holiday film. Teens who attend can relax and get cozy in their favorite local spot, the library.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

In partnership with the Pima County Health Department, the Salazar-Ajo Library has been giving out COVID Self-test kits. During the month of December, we have seen an increase of the community using this service here at the library.

Many of our winter visitors have returned for another season and our shelf of Lucky Day books is getting a lot of attention from the community and accolades from patrons who haven't seen anything like it in other library systems that they have visited.

The library hosted the Premier Medical Group in partnership with the Pima County Health Department, for a 4th time and approximately 50 community members were able to get their Flu shots and COVID boosters on a walk-in basis as well as COVID care kits.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

For the month of December, staff at Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library reflected and considered how to provide programming that would be inclusive and welcoming for our patrons. Children's services staff created a permanent section in our Brain Edutainment Center in the children's area called "Indigenous Heritage" to highlight collection items from indigenous authors/illustrators and about indigenous people. Included in the display our materials from our Many Nations team. Tweens were also able to participate in an art program doing suminagashi, the ancient Japanese art of paper marbling with water and ink.

Youth Services staff kicked off our new youth program "Tween/Teen Thursday Movie Mania". This program provided the youth with opportunity to share their opinions and give direction over which movies under the Swank license would be showed in the library. During the movies, teens had the opportunity to hang out, work through homework together while the movie was running and provide more feedback to supervising staff about what programs they hope to see in the future. Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library also continued to have success in our Teen Drop-In program during the afternoons. Teens enjoyed the opportunity to make crafts and practice skills while hanging out together.

Adult Services staff excitedly prepped for our incoming Hi-Lo collection by shifting and weeding materials to create enough room for our new Literacy Reads collection for adults and teens. The Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library also prepared for the season by having a special Hot Chocolate Mixology week for staff and an ugly sweater picture day.

Woods Memorial Library – Victoria Salajko

December has brought some of the projects of the Youth Health Action Team to fruition. One team has finalized plans for a twice-weekly expressive arts workshop for teens and tweens to be held at Woods Memorial Library, and at the Catalyst Art and Maker Space in the Tucson Mall. Other teams and individuals are working on podcasts, bookmarks for library-wide distribution, book trailers, literary arts magazines, 3D printing projects, and more.

Two more teams have joined the Read-to-a-Dog program at Woods Library: Jake and Jewell! Now we're able to offer more customers the opportunity to read to a dog every Wednesday afternoon and Saturday morning. As a result, average participation has jumped from 7 a week to 17 a week!

Thanks to the help of Sandy White (Library Administration), who provided updated information on the schools in our service area, our Children's staff have made initial contact with the principals and librarians at 9 other elementary schools in our area.

The Adult Service team has seen an increase in program attendance at adult programs this month. Attendance at the Master Gardener presentation was up this month. Job Help attendance is holding steady, and we had 60% capacity at the computer basics class. A new Adult volunteer joined our team this month as well, who has a background in education for adults and young adults.

Woods Memorial Library staff members Matt Landon and Heather Severson have supported some robust activities of the library's newest Affinity Team, Synapse. Matt Landon was featured in an interview for Arizona Spotlight on Thursday, December 15th, 2022 (URL: <https://radio.azpm.org/p/radio-azspot-splash/2022/12/15/214157-birds-of-arizona/>). Distribution of the Synapse Holiday Survival Grab and Go Kit began on Monday, December 19th. Knowing how the holiday season can be stressful and take a toll on one's health, the Synapse Team offers children and adults an occasion for a creative, relaxing time out to cope with holiday stress.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

A guitar concert featured Peter Biedermann on Thursday, December 8. Mr. Biedermann is a solo fingerstyle instrumental guitarist who describes his style as a hybrid, contemporary melding elements of American, European and other world influences.

The University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension Pima County Master Gardener's presentation on December 16 was *Getting Ready for Tomatoes*.

The parking lot expansion has begun! During construction, the lot has 23 available spaces for staff and patrons, but by April 2023, patience will pay off when there will be 60. This is an immensely welcome change, especially because in the afternoons and during programs, the original lot overflows.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

An exciting new project is underway at Joyner-Green Valley Library—the creation of a community Seed Growing Garden! The Library's vision is to engage community members of all ages and backgrounds in growing native plants and harvesting their seeds to share with PCPL's Seed Library. Throughout the coming year we will be offering hands-on gardening programs

and STEM classes (including some in Spanish) to both children and intergenerational audiences in support of this effort, guided by the following mission:

- Encouraging** our community to experience the joys of gardening.
- Educating** our community about growing, harvesting, and saving seeds.
- Reconnecting** our community to the traditions of growing healthy, delicious food.
- Nurturing** a culture of sharing and abundance.
- Building** a local collection of desert-adapted seeds.

Seed Growing Garden programming got underway in November when several children enjoyed a program called “Seeds and Sprouts” presented by Pima County’s Department of Parks and Recreation. They learned about different kinds of seeds and sprouts, how plants grow, and which parts of plants people usually eat. In December, patrons of all ages learned the basics of how to save seeds from commonly grown vegetables and native plants in a workshop called “Introduction to Seed Saving” presented by the Native Seeds/SEARCH organization.

Meanwhile, Joyner-Green Valley Library staff are currently building the infrastructure of our new Seed Growing Garden thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of the Library/Green Valley and Sahuarita. Staff members received training, originally provided by the Tucson Community Food Bank, from their colleagues at Valencia Library in how to cultivate plants using a self-watering container system. Joyner-Green Valley Library’s garden, primarily comprised of four large planters on trolleys, is located on the patio on the east side of the library building. We hope to have in-hand all necessary supplies to begin planting in early 2023. Stay tuned!

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Linde Furman

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library has had a pleasant and peaceful December as we look forward to the beginning of a coming new year. Many customers have visited us to grab books to keep themselves busy over the holidays and COVID-19 test kits to keep themselves knowledgeable about their health and the health of their loved ones. We have also welcomed Gloria, a Martha Cooper Library staff member who will be helping out at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library during Martha Cooper Library’s renovation closure.

We had some wonderful programs this month, including a festive visit from Ballet Tucson performing The Nutcracker for children and an amazing harp music concert for all ages. Our community has also shown great interest in and support for our new Sensory Program for children ages birth-5. Kirk-Bear Canyon Library staff are thankful to our community and our Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library for a successful and happy 2022 for our library branch.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Angharad Daly

In December, Miller-Golf Links Library began giving away COVID-19 test kits to the community. We have seen runaway demand for the service and have been able to help dozens of community members and provide them with the tests they need to make safe and informed decisions this winter! We have heard many positive comments from patrons about the service, who have appreciated both the availability of test kits and the many Pima County Public Library locations offering them.

Additionally, we hosted the Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble this month. Patrons were able to come and learn about traditional Chinese costumes, instruments, and music and even join in playing some themselves! Staff and patrons alike were enthralled with the Ensemble’s performance!

Finally, Miller-Golf Links Library is pleased to host a giveaway courtesy of Pima County Public Library's mental health team, Synapse. We began distributing the Synapse Holiday Survival Grab and Go Kits on December 19 and already we have seen patrons respond warmly to these efforts! The holidays can be a tough time for many and we are grateful and happy to play a small part in easing that stress for the community.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

In December, Murphy-Wilmot Library staff provided outreach services at the American Radiology's Health Fair as well as at the St. Michael's and All Angels mini-sale conviviality. At the Radiology event, staff spoke to approximately 75 people and made people aware of the wide variety of services that PCPL provides. Staff were treated to an outpouring of supportive feedback from participants about public libraries and heard multiple stories about the positive impact that libraries made in people's lives. The St. Michael's event featured tables of socially-committed groups including ELFA (Syrian Refugee Support), APSA (Arizona Palestine Solidarity) and St. Michael's Guatemala Project. During this event, staff spoke to 35 people, handed out dozens of flyers, received several library card applications and enjoyed learning more about these groups. We look forward to attending future outreach events and connecting with our community in this special way.

At Murphy-Wilmot Library, we assist customers who are struggling with addiction issues on a daily basis. In December, our branch began a partnership with the Pima County Health Department to offer a biweekly addiction assistance information table. Health Department staff hand out free nasal Narcan, offer overdose prevention information and provide resources for how to get help for substance-use problems. When supplies permit, they will also provide free fentanyl test strips.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Melissa Salazar

Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library has been busy this month with our Presenter Programs. On December 6th, we had the Reid Park zoo present, "Zoo to you: Habitats" where children can explore how animals survive in the desert, rainforest, and savanna habitats, we had participants attend. Another program that we had on December 15th was "A Musical Journey through the Harp", which was a beautiful harp performance at the library. The harpist played a variety of pieces, from Bach to Debussy, and also traditional holiday pieces. We had 19 people in attendance. Also on December 15th, we had the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum had a presentation about desert reptiles. We had 4 people in attendance. Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library participated in a book reading and signing by author Silviana Wood on December 10th, where we had a table set up, and gave out our outreach materials.

Frank de la Cruz-El Pueblo Library continues to have the presence of Pima County Sheriff Deputies, which helps as a deterrent from patrons using drugs in our public restroom. Their presence has also helped staff feel safer at the branch.

El Río Library – Jeff McWhorter

This month the El Río Library was pleased to host Pima County Supervisor for District 5, Adelita Grijalva and her staff. The El Río Library team was grateful that Grijalva took the time to hear their input about how to improve support for the library and for the El Río Library patrons alike. We spoke about issues ranging from library facilities, public health, housing, addiction, early childhood literacy and more. The staff was grateful for this time with their elected official.

The library continues to be used by a diversity of community members for a wide range of services. Dedicated readers were in each week picking up their holds, many new faces came into the library looking for job, tech, and social services support, and there is still a small group of tweens who are here a few days a week after school. Staff has done their best to respond to patrons needs during craft, job, and homework programming. Staff has also created consistent passive programming to support patrons who come in outside of program hours when staff are occupied with attending to other patrons or their library administrative work.

One highlight of this past month was an outreach activity staff helped organize and carry out with the help of a regular patron that also volunteers with Reading Seed at Manzo Elementary School. Staff visited the Manzo Library and brought books to distribute. We talked with Manzo's 5th graders about library services and programs and then they chose books from those we brought and wrapped them to be given to friends and family as gifts. We left extra books and lots of other goodies (pencils, literature about library/community programming, and Seed Library/Bookbike coloring books) to be distributed at the school's literacy night later in the week. The Manzo Elementary Librarian and their volunteers have forged a strong connection with our library that we hope means more of their families will be at our library soon.

The El Río Library patronage has been consistently picking up free Covid-19 at home tests and express their gratitude about this public health measure.

Happy Holidays!

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

On December 5th, Ballet Tucson visited Himmel Park Library for a special Nutcracker Storytime. One of the company's professional dancers came, in a glittery white stage costume, and read a story about the Nutcracker to a room full of star struck kids and adults. Supervisor Adelita Grijalva even stopped by to enjoy the fun! After reading, the ballerina led the audience through some basic ballet steps and movements. It was magical to see the kids leaping and jumping and learning how to move to the beat!

Staff and clients from the International Rescue Committee paid Himmel Park Library a visit on December 14. Library staff provided a tour and informed the group about the services and programs the library offers. The group was amazed by all the cool things the library does! They also learned about the Welcome to America portion of the library website, including the ability to translate the website into other languages. During the visit, library staff used the language translation telephone service to communicate with our visitors in three different languages.

The English Language classes held at Himmel Park Library concluded their semester together with a party. Over the last few months the students and teachers have become friends and came together outside of class hours to share food and enjoy each other's company. The teacher popped out of the meeting room and asked if a library staff member would take a group photo. The students all clustered together, beaming, and waving at the camera. As the party ended, they said to each other, "See you in January!"

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Em DeMeester-Lane

The Job Help/Tech Help weekly at Joel D. Valdez Main Library is steady, which helps with resume, job search and E-resources at the library. We have a customer who came to work on his resume, recently he got a job and he shared the good news with us.

Our Space – hot meal are served twice a month for those who need it. There were 25 attendees at the last one! We recently acquired a bingo cage, which has turned out to be quite popular. We have also been getting amazing feedback from our patrons experiencing homelessness about what they would like to see from this program as it grows.

The Joel D. Valdez Main Library Children's team has been thrilled to see our Storytime audiences grow steadily over the past few months. Children's librarians Davida and Mary were pleased to make a trip to a Safford K-8 first-grade classroom to present a Jobs-themed Storytime and talk about what librarians do all day! We've decorated the Children's room for the holidays and are encouraging kids and caregivers to cover our windows with tissue paper snowflakes.

101 Space – Cricut Crafting

Our teen space has recently received and set up some new Cricut machines and another desktop computer. With these, staff have been learning how to create various projects such as vinyl decals, holiday decorations, and greeting cards. We've been able to share these skills with the youth who are coming in and hanging out. It's also been fun to see what the kids are able to make on their own, and of course, they're great with new technology!

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Vicki Lázaro

December was a special month for the Richard Elías-Mission Library. This month we were able to celebrate the COVID-19 delayed renaming of the library and unveil the remodeling concepts from the Line & Space Architect firm. Many Tucson dignitaries were there, including Mayor Regina Romero, Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Board of Supervisors County Administrator Jan Leshner and Pima County Health Director and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Francisco García. Over 200 people attended the festivities, which included mariachi, ballet folklorico, food and friends of Sr. Richard Elías reminiscing about his leadership, love of music and support of the libraries.

December for the branch also offered ways for the community to gather and learn more about self-care and mental health. Adult programming included speakers presenting about mindfulness for the holidays, healthy aging and cancer prevention information from the UA Cancer Center. Children's, tween and young adult programming included jewelry and ornament making, creating art for the entry hall gallery wall, a magic show from George McSly and an animal visit from the Reid Park Zoo.

Supporting our community partnership with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, we continue to meet, communicate and share resources. Most recently, staff was happy to assist at the annual Christmas events.

Southwest Library – Maggie Dwenger

December has been an eventful month for the Southwest Library! Our winter programming brought in lots of families with crafts like ornament making and learning about and creating herbal bath soaks as well as a workshop on how to raise backyard chickens. Staff also had the opportunity to do outreach at the TUSD Southwest Family Resource Center for their end of year party as well as participate in a Christmas storytime event at the Dr. Fernando Escalante Tribal Library. Both events were well attended and further strengthened our connections in the community.

We have seen many patrons take advantage of our free takeaway COVID test kits over the past month. This has been a valuable resource and we have heard a lot of positive feedback from patrons about their availability throughout Pima County Public Library Branches.

The Southwest Library received new kid-friendly bookshelves this month and with that, we have seen a lot more kids engaging with our children's collection. Grab-and-Go Snacks for kids continue to be a popular with over 120 snacks already given away this month and we continue to offer GED and Homework help to a consistent group of children and adults.

Branch staff has worked diligently to clean and spruce up the library for the New Year and we look forward to offering a comfortable and engaging space for both our consistent and new patrons for the year of 2023.

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

December consisted of some awesome children and teen programs from various presenters including a Mini Vets program with a real mini horse presented by Mini Miracles Inc., a musical storytime from Mamma Coal, a Herbal Soap making program from Jacqueline Soule, and a drawing program from the Drawing Studio of Tucson. Our internal program instructors offered job help and citizenship classes as well as GED and homework help. Three of our program participants expressed extreme gratitude towards our staff members, as they were able to use the job help program to secure employment this month.

We had a visit from Supervisor Adelita Grijalva and her staff members. During the visit, she got a tour of the library, which included a visit to our Valencia Library garden as well as our newly renovated teen space. Staff were excited to share some of Valencia Library's upcoming projects as well as establish a relationship that we hope to continue to build with her and her team.

To address the issues of the increased drug incidents in our bathrooms, Valencia Library started locking our public bathrooms. For the time being, library visitors will still be able to use the bathroom by requesting that staff unlock it for them. No ID or library card is required to use the bathroom. By keeping the bathroom locked, we are aiming to increase both staff and public safety. We have already seen a decrease in drug related incidents due to this change.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Joyner Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries

Green Valley Library – Creation of an onsite Seed Growing Garden and accompanying programming.

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library

Oro Valley Public Library – Family Movie Afternoon

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Arivaca Library – Ice Cream Social, Free Book Giveaway

Columbus Library – Red Herring Puppet Show, Painting with Dolores Haro

Oro Valley Public Library – Preschool Yoga Storytime, Make your own Steampunk Jewelry, Exploring the Sound of the Acoustic Guitar

Quincie Douglas Library – Painting with Dolores Haro

Sam Lena-South Tucson Library – MegaScience Meg, Ocean Habitats, Gertie Lopez & the T.O. Boyzz