
DATE: June 1, 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 –

This month was focused on working on placement of staff in new positions and staff transferring to new locations. I attended a training offered by the Downtown Partnership on de-escalation in techniques in difficult interactions with the public. I participated in a 2.5 day retreat focusing on the library's strategic planning for the future. I also presented and participated in the Library Board and Friends Groups annual retreat at Flowing Wells Library. It was a good opportunity to introduce myself in my new position and get to know members of the various friends groups that support our branches. I also supported and participated, with the Nuestras Raíces team, in an outreach event for Pueblos de Maiz at Kennedy Park. Staff gave out books and provided info on our services and resources and had a fun craft for families to enjoy!

Library Services Manager – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch

The month of May flew by! Here are some highlights. In addition to assisting in the hiring of two positions (as a hiring manager and an interviewer on a panel), I joined an awesome team of library staff in the preparation for promotion presentation led by the library's Grow Your Own team. I also had the opportunity to meet some of the dedicated members of the Friend's Groups throughout the library system at the annual Library Board Retreat. This also gave me the chance to check out our W. Anne Gibson Esmond Station Library. It is a lovely library with beautiful views of the mountains.

As part of the Library's Nuestras Raíces team, I had the fun task of giving away books at the Pueblos del Maiz Fiesta at Kennedy Park. We easily gave away hundreds of books! This was a lovely event where we partnered with our fellow affinity team Many Nations. Their culturally centered Grab-and-Go activities were a hit as was the wonderful Native poetry journal put together by one of our Knowledge River graduate assistants, Lindsey.

Library Services Manager – Em DeMeester-Lane

This month I was able to meet with important stakeholders for the library. I attended our Annual Library Board Retreat as well as a meeting of the Friends of the Bear Canyon Library. Both of these events were fantastic opportunities to get feedback about the roles of the library in our community as well as how I can best help Managers support their Friends groups. Additionally, I attended a 2.5 day strategic planning retreat. At the retreat the group, made of PCPL employees from all levels, spent intentional time collaborating together, envisioning the future of

our world and the role the library can play within it. Finally, as I am still holding a dual role, managing Joel Valdez main Library, I have spent much of this month training on-boarding our newest Manager, Mikel Stone.

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

Throughout May, I scheduled meetings with each of the managers I directly support, and have spent time at several locations checking in with staff. I have also been working within a small group to make considerable improvements to internal processes related to paid library presenters. These efforts will make it easier for staff to locate and select from available library presenters, and should positively impact our Accounting team with time-saving benefits.

Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

Was able to head to Ajo and present staff with edible goodies in appreciation of their work in the library. On the trip to Ajo, we were able to look at the new improvements of the carpet replacement and movement of the shelves. The Salazar-Ajo branch looks much more inviting, bright, and welcoming.

Had several one on one meetings with direct reports and also assisted in transfers and coverage of branches.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I spent this beautiful monsoon May supporting our organization by covering shifts for Southwest, Santa Rosa and Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr. Libraries, due to understaffing. Providing in-depth training the new Miller-Golf Links Manager Anna Lawrence, who comes to us from Boston, so is new to Pima County Public Library. Providing in person check-ins with Dusenberry-River, Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr., Santa Rosa and Miller-Golf Links Libraries. Video call Teams check-ins with Richard Elías-Mission Library Manager, who replaced me there.

Supporting the community by providing two reference letters for Young Adult Volunteers. Participating as a member and administrative liaison on the Pima County Public Library PRIDE Affinity Team supporting LGBTQA+. Collaborating with the University of Arizona Museum of Art on the Mapping Q Project. Attending meetings for REFORMA, an organization promoting Spanish language in libraries. Additionally, assisting Casa Alitas at the Drexel Welcome Center migrant intake shelter.

Supporting administration by participating in the Collaborative Action Team Meetings, Policy Review Team meetings and Public Service Manager Meeting. Participated in the Library Board, Friends and Foundation Retreat at W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library and the Pueblos de Maiz Fiesta at Kennedy Park.

Supporting myself by continuing education on collections development, how to handle complaints and bystander training. Attended Tucson Police Department's De-escalation Training at the Fox Theater.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Dewhirst-Catalina Library presented a number of programs in May for older persons as a lead up to the Summer Learning Program, which will focus primarily on children. The snowbirds who have not flown the coop yet were treated to a program "That was Then, This is Now" about the history of Southern Arizona, especially the Tucson area. In the prior week adults and older teens had an opportunity to compose original poetry led by a local writer prompted by the phrase, "I am". Staff have also begun to help at least a handful of people each week with library e-resources such as ebook downloading and video streaming as well as a growing number of

persons seeking job help. Over the summer, Dewhirst-Catalina Library will continue to offer staff-presented programs such as Train Time, Lego Build, and will host a few senior Tea Times to foster unstructured social hours in the coolness of the library and offer locals a way to socialize that is free and safe.

Dusenberry-River Library – Matías Torres

May is a transitional month at Dusenberry-River Library. We are preparing for Summer Learning which will start at the end of the month. The expected surplus of overjoy from related Summer Learning giveaways and activities will be in addition to our reimagined weekly Toddler Storytime. Teens that have been exuberant during Teenage Advisory Board sessions or about creating their own comics at our Zines program as well as at our Portable Planetarium event will be able to accrue more volunteerism hours as Summer Learning volunteers or should they choose Summer Interns. Our Master Gardening will conclude this month and our Art in the Afternoon series will begin their summer series. Book clubs, non-profit organizations, homeowner associations, crafting collectives, writing cohorts and study groups continue to utilize the meeting room. We are prepared for the change and thankful to be out of the heat

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

Oro Valley Public Library was closed Monday, May 22, through Monday, May 29. During the closure, the library received interior improvements to better assist customers. All hold and due dates were extended for a week after re-opening. During the closure, staff assisted neighboring branches and a few remained at Oro Valley to complete tasks such as deep cleaning the library and checking in the exterior book chute, which remained open.

American Book Award-winning historian, journalist, playwright, and monologist Jeff Biggers spoke to a receptive Oro Valley crowd about his latest book, *In Sardinia* — a cultural history and travelogue of the island on Tuesday, May 16. The room was full of engaged participants, and the prominent author and activist answered many of their questions and signed copies of his book.

To end the month, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum presented *Drawing Desert Life*. Adults, tweens, and teens met plants and animals of the Sonoran Desert — and learned how to draw them. The students honed their observation skills and created comic drawings of local flora and fauna. Two live animals were on site, for viewing and drawing.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

We have been bustling this month at Eckstrom-Columbus Library. In honor of Asian American Pacific Islander heritage month we had a lovely book display and hosted the Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble for a well-attended performance. We were so fortunate to receive our donated telescope from the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association along with a fun daytime sun and moon viewing. Patrons will be able to check it out for home use very soon. Vivianne Uyeda brought her popular yoga class and Meg Balaconis thrilled with Ocean Habitat to kick start Summer Learning for our neighborhood youth.

Literacy Connects wrapped up their Spring Beginning English classes with a fun party for students. Our three storytimes each week continue to grow and establish literacy skills in our young families. Bi-weekly Homework, Reading help and afternoon snacks finished up for this school year with much enthusiasm and our weekly Code Club, Chess Club and Crafternoons all continue to please.

We had lovely visits from Pima Community College, English as a Second Language students and Job Corps that resulted in many new library users. Our Children's and Youth services and

Book Bike staff made visits and grab n go's to Bonillas, Robison, Lineweaver and Basis schools to share the fun of Summer Learning.

Quincie Douglas Library – Lois Miller

May has been a busy month at Quincie Douglas Library. Customers requested a yoga class, so we booked Melissa Bicheler to teach a 6 week series of “Yoga for Seniors”. It was very popular—participants requested that we book her class again during the Fall. We also had a well attended Bali Bead Jewelry class, taught by presenter Martha Underwood, and a “Sounds and Colors of the Sonoran Desert Nature Journaling” class taught by the Pima County Natural Resources department.

Children's programming was also busy—kids and parents were thrilled to attend a Mother's Day themed Kids' Crafternoon program where they made gifts for their mothers, grandmothers or guardians. They also enjoyed a “Magic Volcano Party” presented by Meg Balconis. This was in addition to the regularly scheduled Toddler Storytime, that happens on Tuesday mornings.

Teens will enjoy a mixed media and collage workshop on May 31st, taught by artist Catherine Eyde. We are also hosting two teen volunteers—one is from Sunnyside High School, and the other helps with children's programming. Both will continue to help out this summer, in addition to our summer youth intern in July.

We are gearing up for the Summer Learning Program—our pages are creating a large scale community map that kids can color in. It will be put on the wall under the SLP banner.

Staff have been busy with outreach events—they helped to represent the Nuestras Raices team at the “Pueblos del Maiz” fiesta at Kennedy Park, and our children's librarian visited several schools (Utterback, Southside Community School and Cavett Elementary) to speak to their site councils, and to represent the library for career day.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

We're trying out a new afterschool drop-in tween program called Thinker Thursdays. Each week, we offer a few different hands-on activities to experiment with, including building and engineering, lighting and electricity, and other creative endeavors. A couple families new to the Sahuarita area learned about Chess Club and came in to play a few matches on May 13. Storytime, Babytime and Read to a Dog remain really popular with local families. We're thinking of adding another Storytime day in the Fall. Staff were busy with school visits this month, as well. Librarians gave a presentation at one school for Career Day and we're welcoming three classes for visits later this month. Our Summer Reading Program will kick off on May 30 with a Red Herring Puppet Show!

On May 6, we hosted a Mini Mosaics workshop for adults and our Book Club met on May 9. Participants discussed *Educated* by Tara Westover. The Library received a telescope donation from a member of the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association in honor of his wife. On May 16, we held a dedication ceremony and launched the new service with a Moon Viewing. Early monsoon clouds had rolled in, unfortunately, but about 25 passersby got to practice using the telescope to get a close-up view of the mountains and staff shared information about how to check the telescope out in the future.

The front lobby now has a lovely turquoise cart filled with Friends' books for sale. We've already seen lots of enthusiasm from the public. Many thanks to volunteer, Connie, for launching this initiative!

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

In May, library staff planned and facilitated multiple public programs per week. Toddler storytimes continue to attract both returning and new participants each week. Weekly Code

Club, Crafternoons hours and Snack Time are also consistently engaging young customers and their family members. Library staff supported outreach efforts at this year's Maíz Fiesta at Kennedy Park, greeting attendees and sharing about library resources and services. Early in the month, the *Desert Harvesters presented Sample and Stories from The Delicious Desert*. Participants learned about harvesting, processing and cooking with fruit and plants grown in our desert landscape. Later in the month, the Reid Park Zoo presented *Zoo to you: Habits*, exploring how animals survive in the desert, rainforests, and savannah habitats.

Karl Wagner, Program Coordinator with Pima County's Community and Workforce Development, began monthly sessions in the library. These are focused on helping navigate people toward resources such as acquiring a cell phone, completing the VI-SPDAT to get them matched with housing, navigate them for food access, help with legal services, connect veterans with resources, acquiring pet supplies, looking into employment and more. For our service area, this collaboration is especially meaningful, and staff have high hopes of its impact on our customers. A customer returned recently to share that a positive staff interaction had inspired him to get clean, after which he found housing and reignited his drive as a musician.

Branch staff here has maintained daily work related to the system's Seed Library collection developing, organizing, and distributing materials across Pima County. Now that the Spring sowing season has slowed down, the staff will soon be focused on planning for the 2023-24 Fall/Winter season collection.

Santa Rosa Library – Victoria Villanueva

Summer Learning is on its way at Santa Rosa library! Staff are preparing for their book give away and planning decor and activities that surround this year's theme "All Together Now". Children saw a sneak peek at some of the books that will be available for free for them to keep and are already planning out the first book they will grab on June 1st.

We were also very happy to have children's author Kellie Fitzgerald come to story time and show off her brand new book in her Laehli and the elephant series. We are excited to see what new and exciting adventures Laehli experiences next.

We also had visits from some chickens and worms this month where patrons not only got to feed the chickens worms but got to take a taste of them themselves in the form of delicious muffins! Only very brave patrons took a taste of worms but all who did agreed they were delicious! We'd like to thank Yasuke Banno on giving us this incredible experience

District 3 – Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Chair

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

Caviglia Arivaca Library Teen Advisory Board (TAB) was very busy this month! They made cards, Tea Cup Gardens, paper flower bouquets, and book bundles to sell at Arivaca's Saturday Farmer's Markets leading up to Mother's Day. The Friends of the Arivaca Library generously donated the books, and soil and succulents were donated by local gardeners. TAB used the funds raised to begin the Arivaca Pollinators Pathways Project, a series of pollinator gardens throughout downtown Arivaca, and in collaboration with the Arivaca Dancehall, a new local nonprofit venue.

Our Friends of the Library group attended the annual Pima County Public Library Advisory Board, Friends, and Foundation Retreat at W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library. They came back enriched by the presentations and inspired by all the programs supported by the various Friends groups. Following the retreat, the Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library had a lively discussion around the idea that how they think about the future directly impacts the decisions they make today, and how that informs how they move forward as a group.

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

This month we helped a patron print an important picture taken 10 years ago. He told staff, “This is the only picture left of my family before cancer got them.” As always, we are honored and humbled by the ways our work here at the library makes a difference in the lives of our patrons.

The spring cohort of English Language Classes wrapped up on May 17th with a small celebration. Beginning English Classes will resume next month with a reduced, once per week schedule for the summer before returning full force in the fall. Our computer classes this month were Intro to the Internet, parts 1 & 2, and Intro to Gmail, parts 1 & 2, which both had a fair amount of interest from our community. Drop-In Job Help is also going strong on Wednesday afternoons.

Our Children’s and Teen librarians made multiple visits to local schools this month to spread the word and hype up interest for our Summer Learning Program, which kicks off on June 1st.

Teen Tech Time was popular as ever on Fridays this month, and with the end of the school year this program will be transitioning into other offerings to keep tweens and teens engaged and learning throughout the summer, which started with Creating a Recycled Junk Band on the last Friday of the month. A Plant-Based Temporary Tattoos program also piqued interest on May 23rd.

Homework Help also wrapped up for the school year this month but will resume in the fall. Read to a Dog continues to bring excited kids into the library, growing more confident readers two afternoons a week. Toddler/Preschool Storytime now happens every Tuesday, with Baby Storytime happening every Wednesday, a schedule that is already proving easier for our families to remember. Make Your Own Stamps also happened on Friday the 26th, starting our Kids & Families Summer Programming off with a fun and creative activity.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

During the first week of May the Salazar-Ajo library was closed to the public for a new carpet installation, as well as a paint touch up. The library reopened on May 8th to a very eager Ajo community. So far everyone has been very excited to check out their updated library space.

In May library patrons were able to take home crossword puzzles and creative STEM grab and go activities.

Library staff is gearing up for the annual Summer Learning Program which starts on May 30th. We anticipate a lot of participation from our young community members and families are already asking when we will be ready.

Our Wednesday afternoon programs included a visit from the Tucson Children’s museum and children were able to learn about dinosaur diets, habits and behaviors. Participants were able to ask lots of questions and discover more about some of their favorite creatures. Children of all ages were able to see dinosaur egg replicas and create their own dinosaur themed art.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation hosted their Annual Living River of Words Awards Ceremony at the Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr, Library on May 10th to kick off the Living River of Words exhibit that is hosted at numerous libraries each year. There were over 176 people in attendance during the event, and library staff were able to make library cards and check out books for attendees during the after-hours event. This is the first year since 2020 that the awards ceremony was able to be conducted in person and attendees and staff were blown away by the turnout.

Recently, two middle school girls were checking out books at the library during our Read to a Dog program. They were excited to see that the program had restarted, and they fondly recalled how much they enjoyed reading to one of the dogs 5 years ago. They asked if they could read a little to Emma Jay, a Chiweenie - Chihuahua-Dachshund mix. As they were reading to her and petting her, their mom shared that the opportunity to participate in the Read to a Dog program helped them practice their reading in a fun, relaxing and stress-free environment and gave them the confidence boost they needed to read out loud in front of others. We are so thankful to have dedicated volunteer handlers and their sweet pets give their time and talents to make a positive difference in fostering kids' love of reading and becoming successful readers.

Young Adult Services has spent the month collecting teen volunteer applications and contacting the applicants to get them ready for Summer Volunteer Orientation on the 19th. The teens will learn how to record their volunteer hours, learn their duties as volunteers and planning out their scheduled hours. During May, Young Adult Services also worked on promotional materials to send out to various high schools and middle schools to let them know about the programs that will be available during Summer Learning. As a kick-off to Summer, Young Adult Services is planning a Water-Balloon Battle on the 26th, 1:00-4:00pm, an event that was requested specifically by the teens after discussions with the Young Adults Services Librarian about what would be the most exciting way to celebrate the end of the school year. Young Adult Services has also continued our Tween/Teen Drop-In program providing tweens and teens to participate in short craft programs and games every afternoon from 3:15 to 4:00pm.

Adult services staff had a Health Benefits of Socialization program presented by Vivian Cullen. Attendees discussed how socialization is essential to our health, especially as we age, and explored the benefits of continuing (or creating) healthy relationships with friends, family, and community. The program was very successful, and staff are looking forward to more ways the library can help provide socializing situations.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

A patron who recently moved to Oracle, AZ drove all the way to Gibson-Esmond Station because she said it feels like home to her after having used the library so many times while going through a very hard time in her life. She was able to use the library to take a course, fill out online documents, print, fax, and set up an email account.

A Pima County Master Gardener from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension spoke about shade gardening on May 19, the last monthly talk of the 2022-2023 series. The presenter explained that a too-shady yard can be an opportunity to create a beautiful garden and that gardeners can have it all when it comes to trees, succulents, and flowers, even under the shade of old established trees.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

The community served by the Joyner-Green Valley Library is a special one! This month, 27 people volunteered in the library, usually for one to two hours at a time, on 117 different occasions! Adult Services Library Associate Deborah manages our volunteer program, matching volunteers to tasks and coordinating their schedules. With a total of 33 volunteers on her roster, Deborah says this May represents a typical month.

Some volunteers assist with shelving and shelf-reading while others are on hand in the computer area to help customers with printing and photocopying. Still other volunteers support or facilitate library-sponsored programming. For example, Maureen, a certified yoga instructor, teaches an hour-long, drop-in class called Gentle Yoga Practice on a weekly basis. Jan facilitates discussion for the monthly Page Turner's Book Club. Barb and her certified therapy dog, Mali, volunteer twice a month as part of our Read to a Dog program. Marie assists our

children's librarian during weekly Family Storytime. Richard hosts Poet's Corner twice a month. Pat and Joe facilitate Meditation for Everyone on Mondays, and a crew of five volunteers take turns leading Mindfulness, Meditation, and More on Tuesdays.

Our volunteers say they enjoy being in the library, interacting with folks, and sharing their knowledge, experience, time, and talents. The efforts of our volunteers support the work of the Joyner-Green Valley Library staff and allow us to offer more programming and services. Best of all, Joyner-Green Valley Library patrons are the primary beneficiaries of our volunteers' contributions. To all our volunteers, we extend a warm thank you.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Linde Furman

Bear Canyon staff have been working hard to get ready for Summer Learning Program 2023! Our giveaway books have been rolling in and we have many programs we are looking forward to hosting over the summer for our families. One of the programs our community kiddos will be pleased to see returning for the summer is Read to a Dog! We are very much looking forward to a wonderful summer of reading and learning together.

During the month of May, we have seen circulation stepping up a bit as customers arrive to select great summer reads. We hosted some terrific programs during this month, including a program with an amazing local harpist and a program on heatproofing your garden with the Master Gardeners.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Murphy-Wilmot's Intermediate English Class celebrated the end of the spring semester celebration in May. Students from Brazil, Mexico, Taiwan, Turkey and Iran shared food and their gratitude with library staff. They shared many inspiring stories about using their new English skills. Some of their accomplishments included obtaining citizenship, interviewing for a job, talking to their children's teachers, navigating the healthcare system and no longer feeling afraid to leave the house. An Iranian student shared, "You feel freedom in this country. I love the USA." We are grateful for this impactful partnership with Literacy Connects.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Melissa Salazar

For the month of May, the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library hosted bilingual children's storytime in the children's area. On May 8, 2023 there were 10 children and 8 parents who participated in storytime stories, music, dance, and arts and crafts. This storytime was focused on learning early literacy skills, themed on storytimes about the southwest. Storytime guest Cassandra Becerra from Congressman Raúl Grijalva's offices read "Way Out West Lived a Coyote Named Frank" and spoke with our storytime families. Then, we engaged in music, arts and crafts, and playtime.

Programming has also been very successful and engaging with the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library. On May 8, 2023 presenter Mamma Coal played country music for kids in the children's area of the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library. There were 18 children and 14 parents in attendance at this presentation, consisting of children from the local Liberty Head Start and community members. Children enjoyed playing instruments, playing games, and singing children's songs.

On May 6th, we celebrated the revitalization of the El Pueblo Center with a "Celebración de Fotografía" put on by the Sunnyside Foundation, and Dr. Jacqueline Barrios University of Arizona Center for Creative Photography class PAH 200. Their project was the El Pueblo Urban Humanities Studio, where they created a living archive of the El Pueblo Neighborhood

Center. This consisted of a gallery of photos of community members at the El Pueblo Center, including some of the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library staff, community, the Frank De La

Cruz Collection, and paintings in the branch. The purpose of the celebration was to celebrate the El Pueblo Center's importance to its community. The celebration featured Mariachi Desierto and Folklórico Desierto from Desert View High School, along with special speakers such as Congressman Raúl Grijalva, Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, and Tucson Mayor Regina Romero. It also featured the studio collection of photos for attendees to view.

The Library also continues to have two Pima County Deputy Sheriffs on duty, Monday through Friday and is helping cut down the drug use in our restrooms. However we are seeing an increase of drug paraphernalia around the building.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Lots of fun and informative events have been happening at Himmel Park Library this month. The Health Department's mobile clinic paid its first visit to the library. Thirteen people stopped by to receive information, vaccines, and other services. We look forward to future visits from the mobile clinic! We also welcomed the Red Herring Puppet Theater to do a bilingual puppet show for Dia de los Niños/Dia de los Libros. Then, the next day, we had two guest musicians join us in toddler storytime to play guitar and ukulele. They talked about their instruments to the kids, added musical accompaniment to the books, and delighted everyone!

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Mikel Stone

The Letters to Those Who Are Incarcerated program has almost doubled the number of letters we've answered in the last two months with the help of our new members! We're up to just over 400 a month now and still growing. Our Space is also booming, and we regularly have 35-40 people attending every session.

On May 10th, the 101 Space hosted a mental health resource event for youth after school. In partnership with the Pima County Health Department and COPE Thrive & Family Center, youth were able to learn more about therapy services, peer support, LGBTQIA+ resources, skill & strength groups, and online/text resources. We hope to continue this service to the community and further develop our collaborative efforts with these organizations, as well as other like-minded ones.

Ignite hosted a workshop on May 18, 'Five Steps to Start a Business' by SCORE Southern Arizona. The professional entrepreneur gave an overview of : 1. Naming Your Business 2. Choosing the Right Business Structure 3. How to Apply for an Employer Identification Number 4. Steps to Open a Business Checking Account 5. How to Create a Marketing Plan. Customers were actively engaged in the topic with Q/A and discussion. What they got out of the workshop was not only the business information, but they also started networking by exchanging personal experience and expertise in their own niche.

And finally, on May 15, Joel D. Valdez Main Library's renovation project started and has been going to plan. The staff breakroom on the third floor and the reference staff work room have been emptied to the concrete floors and the mauve 90's wallpaper, both soon to be replaced with new carpeting and fresh paint. This is the first renovation of its kind on this floor, and the staff are looking forward to the dust settling.

Valencia Library – Ivonne Ramirez

May started off on a very positive note, carrying over from the end of April. On the last Friday of April Valencia Library hosted a most successful class visit from the Ocotillo Learning Center. This class included a neurodiverse group of students and the activities prepared by the Valencia Library children's team brought something for everyone. The storytime included songs and a STEAM theme around earth day and ecology accompanied the literacy activities. The visit also

included an earth day parade by the students and their families around the library and ended with a hands-on activity in the Valencia Library Garden working with soil and seeds from our seed library in a take-home planter. The parents and teachers commented that they had a great experience here and are looking forward to planning a future class visit for next school year.

Adult programming in May continues to demonstrate our customer focus and the impact of providing interest-driven programming to meet community needs. A wonderful example of this impact is Valencia Library's monthly crochet circle. The group is led by Library Associate Natalie and has built a regular group that includes community members and staff. This month we received unprompted feedback from various participants: "Natalie is amazing to learn from," "she is super patient," "I enjoy taking her classes and don't want to miss a class." "A wonderful teacher and a lovely human being." "The atmosphere is so inviting and creative, and the background music is so perfect."

Supplemental to Valencia Library's in-house programming, the library paid presenters made several appearances in May, including among others, the Yoga Storytime, the Portable Planetarium, Play Capoeira, and the Nature-to-You Gardening program. We are excited looking ahead to June, as the library starts to phase into the beginning of summer learning and additional programs and resources for children, families, and adults.

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Dewhirst-Catalina Library – That was Then, This is Now; Poetry Writing "I am.."; Digeridoo program

Himmel Park Library – Red Herring Puppet Theatre; Reid Park Zoo
Joel D. Valdez Main Library –

Valencia Library – Dari Johnson Yoga Storytime, Lauren Rae Portable Planetarium Presentations, Play Capoeira, Nature-to-You Gardening, Wellness Council - Change and Stress, Anna Van DeVender - W is for Worms, Valencia Movie Matinees, Create Club, Storytime, Teen Thursdays, Crochet Circle

Oro Valley Public Library - Drawing Desert Life, presented by Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum; Acro Yoga, presented by Serena Tang.

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Jasmine Asian Music Ensemble, Yoga Class with Vivianne Uyeda, Ocean Habitat with Meg Balaconis

Quincie Douglas Library – Meg Balconis "Magic Volcano Party", Dolores Haro painting class, Catherine Eyde collage class; Yoga for Seniors with Melissa Bicheler; Bali Bead Jewelry with Martha Underwood

Salazar-Ajo Library - Whatever Wednesdays – Button Maker, Dino Discovery – Tucson Children's Museum, Nature Bookmarks, Slime

Santa Rosa Library – Yasuke Banno "Raising Meal Worms", Yasuke Banno "Raising Chickens"

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Health Benefits of Socialization program presented by Vivian Cullen

Friends of the Green Valley Library (Green Valley & Sahuarita) – Storytime, Mamma Coal Kids' County, Music @ Your Library, Gentle Yoga Practice, Meditation for Everyone, Page Turners Book Club, Mindfulness Meditation, Read to a Dog, Poet's Corner, Library Resource & Technology Help