
DATE: September 7, 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: Karyn Prechtel-Altman
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Community Engagement and Outreach Report – August 2023

I have worked closely with the taskforce updating the Library's Call to Artists process due to open in September. We are expanding the process to include 15 art galleries throughout the library system. We are also making changes we hope will result in a more diverse selection of Artists and, therefore, artwork to choose from.

The Community Engagement and Outreach office is supporting the Pima County Public Library's presence at the Tucson Festival of Books this year. Hassael Cazesuz is the Library's Nuestras Raíces team lead and several of us are supporting his efforts. To that end I attended the August Book and Author Committee meeting, and we are working with Festival folks on a county-wide social media Banned Books Scavenger Hunt for early October.

The Southwest Border has seen a recent increase in asylum seekers from Guatemala and Ecuador. Library staff are participating in a special project to assist intake at the Casa Alitas Welcome Center and the Drexel Welcome Center.

Latinx Program Manager, Community Engagement and Outreach Office – Hassael Cazesuz

This month I have had the pleasure to organize a cultural event to commemorate Mexican Independence Day. Last year was the return of this regular program for our libraries since the pandemic and it was well received. This year, we are hosting the event at the El Rio Neighborhood Center on September 15. We will see the return of the Mexican Consulate performing the Grito as well as performances from local youth Mariachi and Folklórico groups. This event will also coincide with Library Card Sign-up month as well as Mes de la cultura (09/15-10/15). We will be encouraging our community to sign up for library cards and remind them of the services and resources available to them in their language. I look forward to celebrating Pima County's rich Mexican-American heritage and honoring the Mexican culture with music, dance, refreshments and best of all, Library cards!

Aside from planning with my colleagues for the aforementioned event, I have also supported the recent influx of Spanish translations that need spot checking to ensure accuracy and colloquially

appropriate Spanish language. I passionately continue to support these efforts and am excited to have the information available to our Spanish-speaking community.

Lastly, I have had the pleasure to welcome and onboard our newest staff member Samantha Neville. Samantha has already made her mark in our office and has been eager to be out in the community with outreach opportunities. I look forward to our team focusing on Latinx, Chicanx, Mexican-American and Spanish-Speaking communities in Pima County to continue to grow with the addition of a Librarian in the near future. With this additional support, I am beyond ecstatic about our impact with our combined efforts and passion to work with our communities.

Library Services Manager, Community Engagement and Outreach Office – Kendra Davey
Fiero Code Club has been going strong for many years and this year is no exception. In the last twelve-month time period, 166 new users have created accounts for a total of 1,322 total users. In the last twelve months there have been 1256 logins averaging about an hour in length. 1,500 tasks have been completed. Tasks are short coding or design challenges and 949 user designed projects have been created. 68 missions have been completed. A mission is made up of many coding tasks and represents about 20 hours' worth of work so that is about 1,360 hours of coding!

August 17 will be the first meeting of teachers participating in the Fall community of practice cohort organized by Tucson Regional Educator Collaborative. Kendra Davey has been helping design and teach a new early educator community of practice focused on early math skills. The CoP will run for 6 weeks. Participating teachers will receive a set of math picture books for their classrooms purchased with a donation from the Pima Library Foundation for It All Adds Up Early Math program.

Visual Marketing Manager, Communications and Systems Office – Renee Bibby
With the wrap up of summer learning, the marketing department has worked on the new fall programming, including include design, press, and web pages for a new Writer-in-Residence, Adiba Nelson, a PRIDE author talk with Kianna Alexander, a Biblio Lotus Author talk with Karen Chow, and a Synapse Community Dialogue on Mental Health.

The new logo and brand designs for the call to artists, Read Runners, and new music streaming service are in their final stages and will debut in September.

We officially launched the new ordering system for the publicity and branch materials supplies. This was a joint effort with the Community Engagement and Outreach office, as their team fulfilled the orders for the branches. The new ordering form took months of work and needs some fine tuning but has resulted in a streamlined process for staff and for the fulfillment, re-ordering, and management of stock.