

**DATE:** February 1, 2024

**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 – January 2024**

The long-standing Adult Services team reorganized their work in early January to focus more on how people use the library rather than their age. It has been very challenging for a single team to serve a community whose only similarity is being age 21 to end-of-life. To that end, Adult Services is breaking into three focus areas: Adult Information, Adult Community, Adult Learning. All three of the new teams will come together on a quarterly basis.

The sad news from the Community Engagement Office is that Library Services Manager Kendra Davey has left Pima County Public Library. As a mover and shaker with multiple expertise, I expect exciting new opportunities will come her way. We hope to fill this vacant leadership role in the Spring of 2024.

**Latinx Community Engagement Manager – Hassael Cazesuz**

As one of the team leads working directly with the Tucson Festival of Books, this quarter was a busy one. I can't thank our PCPL staff enough for the collaboration and contributions to this event, including our colleagues in the Nuestras Raíces team who have dedicated their time to complete tasks. We are all excited about the invited authors, moderators, and panels. We can't wait for our communities to participate and attend this year's festival.

In addition, our team in the Community Engagement and Outreach office, have been curating virtual content to start promoting our invited authors. This includes blog posts and book lists that are posted on our PCPL website as well as our social media pages. We have been lucky and fortunate to have some of the authors in the post engage with our accounts. Our plan is to continue with this content and generate excitement for our audiences so that they can attend the festival and participate.

## Quarterly Reports for Cultural Affinity Teams and Seed Library

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

Biblio Lotus made an effort to highlight our growing AAPI collection by introducing new books in our monthly lists. The team collaborated with the CDO office. More titles were ordered based on the community interest.

To reach more Asian communities in Tucson, Team members contacted and interviewed the Indian Society of Southern Arizona. This is part of the continuing Community Spotlight project where we found more voices from the local AAPI community. The story is shared on the library website: <https://www.library.pima.gov/blogs/post/community-spotlight-indian-society-of-southern-arizona-issa/>

Our team also conducted interviews with AAPI authors -Julie Kim, Benson Sham, Harishita Jerath, and X. Fang, to share their works. The interviews are on the library's YouTube channel that got great views.

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

This quarter, members of our team have been working hard to coordinate tasks for the 2024 Tucson Festival of Books. This includes communicating with the invited authors, identifying and inviting moderators for the panels, as well as authoring panel titles and descriptions. The continued success of PCPL's Nuestras Raíces' Tent could not be done without the collaboration, dedication and passion of our team and we look forward to another great festival!

### **PRIDE** – Casey Short

PRIDE has been preparing for the coming year, particularly for Pride Month in June and Tucson Pride in September. After a small but vibrant author talk with Kianna Alexander this October and a successful outreach at the University of Arizona's Queer'd Science event in November, we are moving into a planning phase for 2024. The team is working to determine new ways to engage with the local community, such as Rainbow Storytimes, community events, and public speakers. The team is also discussing the best way to support branches and administration in their public interactions around LGBTQ+ materials and activities in the library.

### **Seed Library** – Lu Guerrero

[Seed Library](#) continues to connect Pima County community to easy-access gardening information and resources. The team has reached out consistently through programming, outreach, and in-house projects to promote relevant services. Members are busy planning the library's upcoming One Seed 2024 county-wide growing and harvesting initiative, scheduled to begin later this year. Team outreach events at the Santa Cruz River Farmer's Market continue to offer opportunities to let residents know about our services and the Seed Library Collection. In partnership with PCPL's Communication and System's Office, the team newsletter was sent via email to library customers in early January. For this email blast, features included details on the library's new [Plaza Mobile Market](#) collaboration with The Garden Kitchen, University of AZ Cooperative Extension and AZ Health Zone. The market takes place every Wednesday at Valencia Library, offering fresh, affordable locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Team representatives from seed library locations continue to keep shelves stocked with seed packets, ready for customers to check out and start sowing. The [Seed Library Collection](#) team, at Sam Lena-South Tucson Library have begun purchasing, processing, and packaging the bulk of seeds for 2024's warm season catalog. Internally, team members have also focused on Service U staff training, further assisting our coworkers in providing seamless customer service related to the Seed Library Collection.

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

The Welcome to America team has been working to establish priorities for the coming year and strategic planning period to ensure library services are poised to serve immigrant communities of all backgrounds and statuses. Some of the ongoing projects and efforts that we plan to sustain include Literacy Reads, community outreach at relevant events, a partnership with Make Way for Books, digital multi-lingual collections, citizenship offerings in partnership with Pima Adult Education, and participation in local and statewide immigrant serving communities of practice.

Literacy Reads is a collection of materials for individuals who are learning to read in English. They are described as high-interest, low level, which translates to interesting content presented at language levels that are intended for those working on their English language attainment journey. These materials are in all Pima County Public Library locations. Staff actively promote these materials to our English Language Learning classrooms and Literacy Connects tutor volunteers.

Our partnership with Make Way for Books allows the Welcome to America team to ensure families who might not otherwise hear about the library can do so through an organization they already interact with regularly. Welcome to America team members and collection development staff select and purchase give away materials that are bilingual in relevant languages and aimed at a birth to five audience. These materials, along with library marketing materials, are then given out by Make Way for Books staff in small settings that are difficult if not impossible for library staff to reach directly. Some examples include smaller independent daycare settings and in-home childcare settings. This ongoing partnership has been instrumental in helping to bring awareness of the library and our services to many families new to the Pima County community.

Outreach is another essential way to bring awareness of library offerings to potential library users, and to service professionals in other community focused organizations. The Welcome to America team strives to have a presence at multiple events each year, including World Refugee Day. Library staff attend local and statewide convenings to stay abreast of immigration trends and resettlement projections, and to ensure the library is always a voice at the table for larger scale community conversations and efforts to serve immigrant communities.