
DATE: April 3, 2025

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: Community Engagement and Support Services Report – March 2025

The Tucson Festival of Book and the Nuestras Raíces tent area was a wonderful success. I was able to help in the tent area both Saturday and Sunday and despite the cold and windy weather on Saturday we had a large turnout. Approximately 1,100 people attended our presentations over two days. Many of our presentations were at seating capacity, with attendants also standing in and around the tent. In addition to the wonderful turnout, we also had a book giveaway of children's picture books and gave away approximately 1,000 books to the community attending. We also supported the Teen Activity Area, which was super busy all weekend, with teens able to participate in a button-making activity and get free Teen-YA books!

We had to Bookmobile in attendance and supported the Teen Audio Interviews at the festival, where teen volunteers were able to interview teen authors. It's always a rewarding experience for teens to read an author's work and be able to ask them questions and interact.

Our staff were amazing at planning, implementing, and staffing all the many service areas during the festival. We could not do this without their dedication and help! Now to take a small break and begin the planning process all over again!!

Another March activity of note in Community Engagement is the active recruitment of Librarian I and Community Engagement Manager. Both positions will have a focus on providing services/resources and outreach to Pima County's Latinx community.

Community Engagement Library Services Manager – Alina Rowe

On March 4th, I attended the Community Service Provider Forum: Digital Skills and Access for All event at the Office of Digital Inclusion. Different county departments and organizations were present and information about what their departments are doing to provide access to community members. The most impactful presentation for me was the information provided concerning how vigilant we must be to keep our information secure in the cyber world.

My colleague and I presented information on how to Understand your Community to serve your community effectively. The information included was how to evaluate community needs, why

partnerships are important, and the benefits of evaluating your programs. This information was presented at the Service U cohort of new employees.

For the month of March, we celebrated a job well done at the Tucson Festival of Books. I helped the set-up of the décor of the Nuestras Raíces tent, worked all day Sunday distributing children's books, setting up between panelists, and the take down of the tent décor. We distributed all the teen books and almost ran out of the children's books. It was exciting to engage with authors and listen to some of the amazing panelists at the event.

On March 19th, I was able to attend the Encuentro event at the Pueblo High School where students and their families' selected books from different organizations and their donations. There were live music performances by the students of Pueblo and other elementary schools.

Finally, this month I attended the Blanchard Situational Leadership II training course to be an effective manager/supervisor and better meet the needs of my staff.

Workforce and Economic Development – Matthew Landon

The March Ignite Business e-Newsletter focused on using artificial intelligence in your business, highlighting an online SCORE workshop on March 25, Leveraging AI for Search Engine Optimization. CEO staff attended a Community Service Provider forum on Digital Skill Building hosted by the Office of Digital Inclusion on March 4, where we learned about organizations in the community and worked to coordinate our efforts around digital equity.

CEO staff volunteered at the Tucson Festival of Books working in the Nuestras Raices tent, handing out free books, leading teen interviews of YA authors, working in the Bookmobile, and leading the teen activity tent. Matthew Landon moderated a session with Writer-in-Residence Tom Holm on March 15. Tom returned on March 16 for a panel of indigenous authors. This year's Tucson Festival of Books was a great success.

Collection Development/Support Services Library Services Manager-Kate DeMeester-Lane

There have been several common questions following our recent announcement that the Cele Petersen Arizona Collection will begin circulating. First, books in the collection will not float throughout the system. All collection materials will be returned to Joel D. Valdez Main Library to be held until the next checkout. Second, there are no plans to reduce or weed the materials in the collection during the process of moving towards circulating items. Valuable and/or fragile items will continue to be held as reference materials, which means they will not circulate.

Last, but certainly not least, we have been getting the question of why increasing access to these materials is so important. Access is important because all our collections belong to everyone in our community, not just those who can make it to a specific library. Additionally, there is a great deal of unmet need in terms of access to these materials. We know this because we get regular requests from customers for interlibrary loans (ILL) of titles that we hold in this collection. Because we have the items in our system, we do not fill these ILL requests. During 2024, 101 items were requested for viewing in person at the downtown library. Based on reviews of our ILL records, approximately 20 ILL requests are received for Arizona Collection materials each month. These requests total approximately 240 per year, well over twice the requests we receive in person at the downtown library. Of course, we have no way of capturing unmet need when customers do not submit an ILL request, so we expect that the actual increase in circulation of these materials will be much more than 20 checkouts per month. This collection has been our most underutilized

collection, but not for lack of interest from our community. By removing unreasonable barriers to access, we will allow our community to finally make full use of this collection.