
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: Em DeMeester-Lane
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Public Services Report – March 2025

March was focused primarily on staffing. I gave my presentation to the Library Advisory Board about Staffing, then Amber, Anthony, Marissa and I held our quarterly series of regional staff meetings where much of my focus was on our staffing process. And finally, I led an all-day Manager Workshop (also held quarterly) with branch managers to discuss their current staffing needs. Using the staffing model tool and updated information about leave usage, managers split into groups with their LSM to identify what staff they need to be fully staffed at their current hours and how many of which classifications they would need to expand their location by a day. I am using this information to guide my April presentation to you all about the phased approach we will use to expand hours in the coming year. We ended the day as a group and placed upcoming positions based on their staffing deficits. We had a lot of important discussions about staff and community needs and my hope is that branch managers and staff feel validated and heard. We will continue to build on these workshops to strengthen teamwork between the branches and the Admin Public Services Team. I have gotten some very good feedback from managers that it was helpful and hopeful for them to see the larger picture and direction.

Anthony and I continued our branch visits this month and were able to meet with El Pueblo, Catalina, Abbett and Nanini managers. Having worked at each of these locations during my career with PCPL, it was a true pleasure to get to show Anthony around with their respective managers.

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

This month I had the opportunity to visit several library locations while meeting with staff and managers to discuss ongoing programming, staffing, and facilities requests. I began processing job interest survey results from staff across the system, to help library administration identify staff interests in physical worksites; along with professional development interests within other library areas of focus such as collection development and communications. The Paid Presenter Team has been working to create systemwide training to teach new staff how to utilize paid presenters in conjunction with their branch planning for programs and events and will conduct that training in both April and May. During this month, I also have worked with three unpaid

interns to explore opportunities for placement within PCPL beginning this fall.

Library Services Manager – Monique Perez

The month of March flew by! During the Public Service Managers All Day Workshop, I connected with my five branch managers interacting with them individually and as our small group. We further connected during our first in-person small manager meeting, building rapport, sharing information, and checking in.

A huge highlight this month was attending the Tucson Festival of Books! I attended Sunday, March 16 and supported PCPL at the Nuestras Raices tent. I was able to connect with festival attendees and listen to two amazing panels of authors.

Lastly, this month I participated in and completed the New Employee Passport Training and two series of Blanchard Leadership and Management Trainings to further support my professional development.

Library Services Manager – Linde Furman

During the month of March, I have been busy at work with the teams I am the administrative liaison for and with supporting my branches. The Trauma Informed Care Team (TICT) is planning to conduct a new survey for staff that we hope to release some time this spring to gauge their needs and how else we may be able to help. The team is proud of its work in implementing counseling for staff during their work day. We will soon be adding a second provider option for staff to choose from as well. TICT also is proud to work with both a Knowledge River Graduate Assistant and an intern from U of A who have assisted with data organization and collection to support our team efforts.

The Library Restorative Practices for Youth (LRPY) team has been on hold for the last 2 or 3 years and I am currently working with new lead, Katie Westfall, to breathe life back into the team and get it back up and running. We are presently setting some goals and getting organized and prepared for the reinvigoration of LRPY and its objectives. This team will serve our entire library system well.

Vulnerable Populations teamwork continues with social worker Beth Wahler as we look at the next steps and suggestions, she has provided us during her contract period with the grant PCPL received. Those suggestions are being reviewed by PCPL's top leadership, including our Director and Deputy Directors.

My branches are doing well, and I am proud of their efforts to balance programming with staffing levels and hours challenges. The staff work very hard and do a great job juggling a multitude of different responsibilities. I am also pleased to announce that my former position as manager of Joel D. Valdez Main Library has been filled by Christine Russell, who will be transferring from Kirk-Bear Canyon Library. We are so pleased to have Christine joining the Main Library team with her co-manager, Lorenia Diaz!

Over the coming months I look forward to trying to spend more time at the branches I oversee and forming deeper relationships with the staff at those locations.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I have been providing in-person and Teams video check-ins with the Managers of Murphy-Wilmot, W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station, Kirk Bear Canyon, Dusenberry-River, Santa Rosa and Flowing Wells Libraries. I assisted in supporting South Tucson and Santa Rosa Library by helping at the desk when they were short on staff due to callouts. I spent a Saturday supporting our organization greeting our community at the Nuestras Raices tent at the Tucson Festival of Books.

Supporting administration and assisting branches by attending and/or participating in the Regional All Staff Meetings, Library Advisory Board Meeting, PRIDE Affinity Team, Library Planning Task Force, Intermittent Task Force, REFORMA, Nuestras Raices and Public Service Managers Meetings. Supported my organization by being the hiring manager and on the hiring panel for the Library Technical Associate interviews. Worked with my six branches as a team during the Public Service Managers All Day Workshop.

Attending Pima County events, I helped in the party celebration of artists who designed the new library cards at Martha Cooper Library. I celebrated the Transgender Visibility Day proclamation at the Board of Supervisor's meeting. I also attended the Cesar Chavez celebration and paid my respects to Raul Grijalva's family at his Celebration of Life

Supporting my professional development in my Library Services Manager role by taking Udegy classes in Emotional Intelligence and a webinar on Customer Service with some staff I support. I also attended the two-day Blanchard Situational Leadership II Training sessions with my LSM peers.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dewhirst–Catalina Library – Christine Dykgraaf

Dewhirst-Catalina Library has seen an increase in the number of patrons coming into the library. We also sense we are bestowing more new library cards to users than in typical winter months. We are likely to help with this due to the current limited library card campaign. Some long-term patrons have even changed their cards to have one with the new art on them. Our displays for Black History Month and Women's History Month have been well perused.

Tax season also increases our gate count due to a growing number of people needing the internet to self-file, access online receipts, and so on. This demographic often needs assistance from staff to navigate websites, find valid forms, and to print and fax.

Interest in our adult programs continues to grow, especially our staff led discussion about all things Catalina, "A Sense of Place and Time". We had no paid programming in March, so passive programming has led our efforts this month. We have had our chess set and a picture puzzle out every day in addition to the toys and coloring items in the children's area. Craft kits include a Leprechaun, a nature jar, and a flower made with cupcake cups. Children in our crafternoon and homework help hours have made jewelry, egg carton art, and items out of duct tape.

Dusenberry-River Library – Mikel Stone

The month of March found the Dusenberry-River Branch Library in full swing. Our winter visitors have returned looking for books and community and programming in big numbers. Notable programming such as the Tucson Museum of Art's Art Talks, and their nicely curated Art Book Club have had peak attendance, and helpful standbys like the TEP Home Energizer Workshop and the Master Gardeners lectures all found an engaged and large audience in our patrons.

In building news, Dusenberry-River Branch Library received a newly paved and graded parking lot. This was a big project, and the bulk of the work was wrapped up in less than a week. Our patrons now have a new and freshly painted place to park while visiting our location. It's looking great!

Staff programming for teens this month had a big tie-in to the Tucson Festival of Books, as we hosted YA science fiction author Scott Reintgen for a question-and-answer session and a live reading. Youth seemed very excited to meet an author and Reintgen was very generous with his time and autographs.

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini staff have been hearing plenty of heartwarming and positive feedback this month. Two longtime customers approached the desk and shared that it was their 64th wedding anniversary. They said they wanted to do something special, so they visited their favorite library.

Nanini's Read to a Dog program received a stellar endorsement from the mother of a young reader last week. The child had been struggling with reading skills at school and only felt comfortable reading aloud at home. After reading to beloved terrier mix Griffi over the last month, the mother was excited to report that she's seen major progress in her child's reading skills. She also said "Maya (Griffi's handler) is magic." This feedback serves as an important reminder that literacy programs like Storytime and Read to a Dog aren't just fun-- they help children develop lifelong skills including communication, confidence, and reading comprehension in a judgment-free environment.

Wednesdays have become extremely busy at Nanini, beginning the day with our new Family Storytimes which are steadily growing in numbers each week. In the afternoon we host a Lego, gaming, or art program after school. Wednesdays are early release days for many school districts on the Northwest side and throughout Tucson which gives our creative staff a built-in audience when planning programs.

Nanini teens from the Teen Advisory Board had the opportunity to interview New York Times bestselling author Kathleen Glasgow at the Tucson Festival of Books. Teens worked with our Young Adult Services Librarian to develop questions in advance. An audio recording of the interview will become available soon.

All three sessions of the Drawing Studio's "Blind Contour Drawing" in February filled up quickly and library staff are planning for more adult programs in the coming months. Thanks to the addition of new staff, we are excited to be rebuilding our program options for all ages.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

We continued with business as usual in March. There was a short break from children's programming during spring break and we saw fewer families during that week. We did have a popular Minecraft gaming program for Tweens that was very fun and well-received, which was planned to catch students who were still in town for spring break. We had a three-part series of Yoga & Chat in March, which was a nice way for adults to socialize and do yoga together. Our displays for Women's History Month and Gardening have been popular and one of our talented staff members made a larger-than-life Frida Kahlo to top off the display.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

It's been a busy month here at Eckstrom-Columbus. We are still hosting AARP Tax Preparation again, something our patrons start requesting in November. Our Job/Tech help is impactful, and the addition of DES job help table on Wednesdays on top of what we offer on Tuesdays has been helpful. Both are well attended. We are partnering with Literacy Connects for Computer Basics. We love working with them and our patrons continue to attend these programs enthusiastically. Our baby and toddler storytime are frequently filled too. This month also included the spring break movie screening for crafternoon, which is always a hit. Once again, Read to a Dog and Chess are gaining more patrons. Chess club continues to grow, and players find great joy in mentoring

younger competitors. Of course, the children are always excited for after school snacks and start requesting them from the moment they walk through the door.

Chisme and Cafecito continues to get attendance and yield information we can use in shaping teen services at the library. Yoga is always filled to capacity as adults seek community and ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Our Homelessness Resource Navigator, VoteRidersID, and the Health Department's Addiction Recovery Specialist are all busy the whole time they're here and requested frequently in between times. The intensive assistance they provide is an exact fit for many of our patrons. Eclectic Readers Book Club read *The Soul of a Woman* and *The Seed Keeper* in honor of Women's History Month, and it was an engaging conversation for all attendees. The Pima County Assessor came this month to explain some of the intricacies of property taxes. Our Journaling for Teens program was a hit. Teens used supplies to create art or write something that reflected the current state of mind. The bi-lingual TEP Home program returned to our branch and was well attended for the 3rd time in a row.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

In March, we hosted several fun events, including Frank Powers and the Comic Bookmobile on March 5 where kids learned how to draw their favorite comic character. We also held a Chess Strategies and Techniques class presented by Martha and Zak Underwood on Saturday, March 15, with 14 participants. The library got loud on March 20 as we welcomed a heavy metal band called Mastodonna, which specializes in Madonna covers. The performance patio was filled with enthusiastic listeners enjoying Eegees! The Center for Neuroscience brought the Brain Bus to the library on March 26 for lots of interactive brainy activities.

We held an Adult Storytime on March 22 for a regular group of visitors from a day program called Adventures with Friends. They enjoy getting together for stories and a craft, followed by time exploring the library, selecting materials to check out and utilizing the computers. Our Book Club read and discussed *Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant* by Roz Chast. Also, our writing workshops have been so popular, we started a drop-in writing lab called *A Place to Write* on March 12 and 26.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

The library began offering basic computers skills classes, facilitated by Pima Community College Adult Education. The six-week course focuses on building students' confidence in using the technology needed day-to-day. A second six-week course begins in April and customers have begun registering in advance! SCORE presented *I Need a Website, Now What Do I Do?*, an informative workshop on website creation for businesses, nonprofits, or simply establishing an online presence.

Starting this month, Baby & Toddler Storytime is offered every Friday morning and is building attendance. Library staff is partnering with the department's Community Engagement Office to table at Pueblo High School's Spring Encuentro, sharing PCPL resources and information with students and school staff.

Santa Rosa Library – Michaela Grady

Santa Rosa has been working to increase our range of programming, and March has been a success! Starting with our youngest patrons, we held several Storytime programs this month. Staff led a Bilingual Storytime, and a STEAM Storytime. We also welcomed some guests including Saguaro National Park Rangers who presented Cactus Hotel Storytime, as well as local author Debi Novotny, who presented Dinosaur Stomp Storytime.

For our kids, tweens, and teens, we held Bingo Exercise presented by AZ Healthzone, Intro to Tie Dye, and a Crafternoon where staff helped the audience to tune into their creative side.

Finally, we're expanding our adult programming, and we were able to offer multiple programming opportunities to this community in March. We hosted our monthly staff led Craft Circle. Then, we welcomed Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Arizona who presented The Most Influential Songs of the 20th Century. Finally, we were visited again by AZ Healthzone for a program aimed at adults, Farmers Market 101, where participants learned how to use benefits to purchase fresh, local ingredients at their local farmers markets. We are excited to continue to grow our adult audience in 2025!

District 3 – Dr. Sylvia M. Lee

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

March began with an informative presentation on the 1887 Sonoran Earthquake, which was particularly impactful when local residents whose families have lived here for several generations were able to share their families' stories of the earthquake.

Staff provided outreach at the Amado Youth Center and Storytime at San Fernando Elementary School. San Fernando students learned about Cesar Chavez's fight for justice; and teachers appreciated library staff's ready-made unit on African American Artist Alma Thomas in celebration of Women's History month.

We had an extremely successful spay/neuter/vaccine clinic in coordination with Pima Animal Care Center, with supportive on-site vaccine education by the Pima County Health Department and rabies education by Pima County Epidemiologists. It was amazing to see how smoothly all the departments worked together with the local community and their pets. And given the increase in rabid skunks lurking around town, it is a great relief to have more pets in town vaccinated against rabies and more residents educated on the danger of rabies.

Once again, the Caviglia Arivaca Library hosted the closing event of the Arivaca Vulture Fest. Stand-up Bassist Glen Moore once again played hundreds of vultures home to their nighttime roosts in the cottonwood trees near the library. The community gathered on the lawn and enjoyed picnics and hot beverages as music played and vultures soared above.

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

March was a great month for the Flowing Wells Library! Our Seed Library and our Culture Passes have both seen a huge uptick in use this month, and we also started some new seeds in our branch garden, including tomatoes and melon. Our patrons and our staff both love to grow things, and we can't think of a better way to be involved than as a seed source!

In keeping with the gardening theme, this month we also displayed art by local photographer Aaron Caldwell in our gallery space. Aaron specializes in beautiful up-close photos of bees and other pollinators – perfect for this time of year.

All our usual programs continued steadily this month, with a newer addition being the Teen Gaming Club which aims to engage teens and tweens with a variety of different games, from board games to table-top RPGs and video games. Our English classes and GED prep class from LiteracyConnects, wrapped up their winter quarter on March 7, and we are looking forward to spring quarter starting in April!

Finally, we had a couple of special one-time programs this month as well: for tweens, teens or families there was Mario Game-n-Watch on March 11 to celebrate Super Mario Day (Mar 10 = Mar10 = Mario), which consisted of a screening of the Super Mario Bros movie, followed by playing the games on the big screen. Then on March 13 we hosted the Portable Planetarium where both younger and older kids got to crawl inside a large inflatable planetarium to learn about our constellations and the night sky.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

Children's Services had a special program called Leprechaun Launch on March 17th where attendees were able to build their own green stomp rocket with a leprechaun pilot and launch it into the sky. This fun hands-on activity taught kids about rocket propulsion and air pressure and was a real blast.

Young Adult Services had a successful March. The Teen Advisory Board helped contribute new prizes, in the form of beaded necklaces made from the excess crafting material we had in our supply closet, for our monthly passive-program Seek-and-Find. For the MUSD school break we provided two days of extended TNT Tech programming so that youth that do not normally have the time to try out our robotics or our 3D printer had more time to test out those materials. In April we look forward to some live animal programming in Spring through our presenter program "Heavenly Hedgehogs".

Friday, March 14 was an excellent programming day at the Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr Library. In the morning, library presenter Martin Randall presented an art talk on "O'Keefe in New Mexico" on artist Georgia O'Keefe. It was well attended, and the patrons were complimentary. In the afternoon, best-selling author William Kent Krueger came to talk about becoming a writer and answer questions. This program was very well attended, and patrons really enjoyed the author talk. There were several people who even attended both programs.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

If March were a person, it would be the library patron who shows up to every crafty program because they love to celebrate creativity and explore various art and craft activities. Happy National Craft Month.

This month at Woods Memorial under the Maker's Mayhem program, the patrons were able to create art for Woman's History, using ink, bleeding tissue paper and canvases on March 5th from 3-4pm. Patrons were also able to create keychains with a Perler bead activity on March 12th, and was able to revisit all the crafts that were made in *Maker's Mayhem* program within the last year on National Craft Day celebration on March 19th.

Continuing with programming for patrons at Woods Memorial, Movie Saturday was from 1pm-3pm and patrons were able to watch "I Wanna Dance with Somebody" and have popcorn. On Thursday, March 6th Tween and Teen Tech played with the Nintendo Switch with Mario Kart. March 11th was the *Master Gardeners* program. March 14th was the STEAM elementary program from 3:30-4:40pm.

Also, in March Woods Memorial patrons can continue to participate with the ongoing programs, Read to a Dog on Wednesdays and Saturdays, *Amphi Pantera* Food Truck program on March 31st and Lego hour from 3 to 4:00pm on Tuesday's.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney Happy fourth anniversary to the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library!

National Parks Services presented People of the Desert on March 20. Attendees learned how native people have survived in the Sonoran Desert by building efficient structures, eating native foods and communicating using petroglyphs.

A new Pokémon challenge emerged this month that invited patrons to name 20 different Pokémon in the library's lobby. One **parent** whose children were up to the challenge said that he was excited

that all that time he spent obsessing over Pokémon when he was younger was now coming in handy.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

Joyner-Green Valley Library was a busy place in March! Patrons took advantage of many opportunities for learning, wellness, entertainment, community participation, and civic engagement. For example, in partnership with the University of Arizona's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, the library hosted a presentation entitled, "The History of Stock Market Crashes." Similarly, the Santa Cruz Valley Historical Society continued its speaker series with a talk on World War II sites in the Greater Green Valley/Sahuarita area. Coincidentally, this month's selection for the Page Turner's Book Club, *March* by Geraldine Brooks, is a work of historical fiction.

The two monthly art talks by docents of the Tucson Museum of Art drew their typical large crowds with a combined total of nearly 100 attendees. The Pima County Assessor's Office offered the first of two information sessions in which they help clarify residents' Real Property Notices of Value; customers frequently thank both the library and the Assessor's Office for providing these sessions. Thirty-six units of blood were collected by the American Red Cross in the second blood drive hosted by the library this year. Our weekly *Mindfulness Meditation* program continues to be a customer favorite.

Paws for Grownups, a program offering a bit of canine companionship for adults, was expanded to twice a month; we are now visited by four therapy dogs, two on the second Monday of each month and two on the fourth Monday. Paint was the common medium for the two *Arts and Crafts for Adults* programs in March though participants say they enjoy the social interaction as much as the crafts themselves. At this month's *Music @ Your Library* program, perennial favorite performers, The Outlaws, played and sang their repertoire of oldies, country, and pop music to the delight of an enthusiastic crowd.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Christine Russell

March at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library found us back at full capacity with some days seeing over 500 patrons. We continued with all our regular programming but added something new with 3D printing available on Saturdays to any patron 12 and older. Our Teen Advisory Board members man the 3D printing desk, helping patrons to learn the required tutorial and then watch their creation come to life in plastic filament. Another popular teen program was our Book Vases & Bookend Art. Our examples had people of all ages asking about the program, so we might have to do another one for adults.

Our art gallery and display cases had patrons excited this month. In the lobby display cases we showed art from students at our neighborhood Sabino High School. In our wall art gallery, there were many amazing photographs courtesy of Club Camera Tucson. It was their first show since Covid.

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence

During March at the Miller-Golf Links library, children attended some of our regular programs, including twice weekly story times, and our monthly Read to a Dog, a program where children can sit with a dog and read without judgement. We hit program capacity on our DIY Bath Bombs where children could customize their own bath bombs with a variety of scents. Tweens and teens are making their own designs using colorful Perler beads. When the design is created, staff will use an iron to meld the beads together, forming a permanent shape.

The Voracious Readers Book Club this month is reading *Stargazer* by Anne Hillerman. Our technology and job help programs for adults have changed times to try and reach a new group of

people for one-on-one and drop-in sessions. We look forward to providing ongoing service for even more patrons.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

With new staff onboard, Murphy-Wilmot was able to expand its youth services programming. Gone are the days of having 100 children in one storytime. We now offer three storytimes: Babytime, Toddler time, and Preschool Storytime. The expanded offerings allow us to design each storytime with age-appropriate content. Murphy-Wilmot is also offering a children's Code Club. Children and tweens can experience connected learning with fun technology such as Ozobots and Fiero Code. We look forward to enriching children's lives with these engaging programs.

Murphy-Wilmot had another successful Armchair Adventures season. This month were offered the following talks: A Winter's Journey along the Norwegian Coast, South Korea: The Soul of Seoul, and Cambodia and Vietnam. Participants loved hearing about travel experiences and other cultures. Each event had an average of 45 attendees.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair

Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library – Perri Pyle

Spring is in the air at the El Pueblo Library – the shelves have been dusted and the book displays refreshed! Our "March Into Spring" display is in full bloom, with themed covers flowers and gardens. For programming, this month we sponsored a TEP Home Energizer Workshop inside the El Pueblo Senior Center and invited groups from other organizations within the center. We had a wonderful turnout of nearly 30 people who came to hear the bilingual presenter talk about energy saving tactics for the home. We were also visited by two bustling groups of 2nd graders (50 total) from the City of Tucson KIDCO program who buzzed into the library to play with Legos, coloring books, and computers.

El Río Library – Morgen Daniels

The first of our bi-monthly Storytime events on March 6 hosted by El Rio Library staff was a blast, and 20 young attendees had fun reading silly stories and playing beanbag games together. For our second Storytime event on March 20, we are thrilled to host park rangers from Saguaro National Park, who will teach participants about the beautiful saguaro cactus and all the incredible animals that call it home through story and song!

Two young library friends reunited at our March 11 Crafternoon event who had previously met during the 2024 Summer Learning Program! Both children and their guardians had a wonderful time crafting pipe cleaner creations including beaded jewelry and animal figurines with the group. And to borrow AzLA 2024 keynote speaker Mychal Threats' phrase, the resulting "Library Joy" was infectious! One attendee approached the service desk following the event and presented an El Rio Library team member with a piece of jewelry they had crafted for our Read to A Dog therapy dog Finn.

At our monthly adult Book Club event on March 13, we had our best turnout thus far and enjoyed an exciting discussion about participants' recent historical fiction favorites, ranging from a Jazz Age mystery set in Chicago to a tale of Sapphic romance and intrigue in Victorian England. We look forward to meeting next on April 10, when we will be discussing books about little-known or "hidden" history.

Overheard at the El Rio Library Seed Library cabinet: "Who knew we had such a cool library near us!"

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

On March 5, Himmel Park Library hosted the Pride team for a special Rainbow Storytime, celebrating families of all kinds. We had about 30 people and everyone was excited to hear

stories, sing songs with bean bags and scarves, and make a special rainbow craft. One pre-verbal child enjoyed the strobe light element of one song so much that she asked her grandmother, in sign language, for “more” when we reached the end of the song! We had a wonderful time.

On March 12, Himmel Park Library welcomed a docent from Tohono Chul for a talk entitled *Birds of Tohono Chul and the Tucson Basin*. The 16 program attendees enjoyed an interactive presentation in which they were invited to guess the identity of some of the most common bird species in our region. After naming each bird, the docent shared some facts about the bird, highlighted distinguishing characteristics to use in identifying the bird, and invited the audience to practice by calling out the bird's key features. The attendees were also able to ask the docent a variety of bird-related questions. After the program, one attendee stated that she “absolutely loved the talk!” Another participant expressed gratitude to the library for scheduling a program about birds in the afternoon. They are not a morning person and had thought that engaging in birding required getting up very early in the morning. They were delighted when the docent told them that an early start was not necessary to be a birder!

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Lorenia Diaz

The Joel D. Valdez Main Library children's department continues to hold well-attended Family Storytimes, with an average of 21 participants. We have also been reintroducing crafts to Storytime, and were able to use the materials for the latest craft (bookmarks with ribbons) for a kindergarten visit from Safford, with a whopping 41 attendees. The school visit was very successful, and we look forward to continuing to offer school tours.

During March, many of our regular after school students were out for the week of Spring Break, but we left our makerspace doors open during this week, and we welcomed new youth into the 101 space. The kids had the opportunity to explore the library's offerings, including making slime and beaded bracelets as well as using the 3D printer for the first time. Our regulars are now back, and we are getting help from our teen volunteers as we prepare for April being National Poetry Month.

Our Reference team partnered with a teacher from the ASU School of Social Work on February 28th to teach their students how to research a topic and how to evaluate information sources. The students gave very positive feedback, and, more importantly, immediately used some of the resources we recommended in their assignments.

Our Ask a Librarian compliments for the month:

“Thank you so very much for all the very helpful information you provided and for responding with such information so very quickly too!” -P.B.

“Thank you again for your help and for checking in on me. I'll definitely recommend your service if friends tell me they're having tech issues.” -F.K.

Martha Cooper Library-Tara Foxx-Lupo

Martha Cooper library is getting busy! Not six months from opening our branch is seeing monthly door counts over ten thousand on a consistent basis, with some programs filling up beyond capacity on a weekly basis. Storytimes are so well attended that our librarians offer our Tuesday Storytime program in two sessions, back-to-back. Local families love the energetic early literacy programs presented in our dedicated Storytime room and outdoor children's patio. Our GASP (Games, Arts and Snacks) program has also built a steady following, with regular youth coming in to express their creative sides. Each week staff prepares a new activity, from making buttons to creating a collage, and kids can hang out with their peers and create.

Young adults are eager for the continuation of our 3D printing workshops, presented and facilitated by our Teen librarian and skilled Teen Volunteers. The concepts of 3D design and modeling are taught to youth ages 11 and up, with fun 3D printed takeaways provided for participants. These workshops have had full registration and attendance each time they have been presented, a demonstration of the continued interest and desire from the community for these enriching learning opportunities.

For adults the Martha Cooper branch is hosting the Writer in Residence program with author Tom Holm, professor of Emeritus of American Indian Studies at the University of Arizona. Local writers enjoy the opportunity to meet and discuss their Craft with an experienced author with decades of experience in scholarship and service to native communities.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – CLOSED

Valencia Library and Bookmobile/Readrunners– Ivonne Ramirez

March was abuzz with the regular use of library facilities and special programming at Valencia Library. Staff across all hours and service points received praise from our library users, mentioning an appreciation for Valencia Library staff's technical expertise, courtesy, creativity, and patience. At the Tucson Festival of Books, the Bookmobile got its fair share of visitors, and comments from folks who had not ever been on a bookmobile, or who shared memories of waiting for the bookmobile decades ago when they were children in hopes of a new reading adventure to take home and enjoy!

Program participants also shared their inspiration in Create Club, hosted every Wednesday. This month, the creative adventures led the intergenerational group through activities with science and history, with an extended slime workshop earlier in the month, which delighted our participants ranging from age 5 to 13 to age 50. Near the end of the month, Valencia Library's Create Club hosted a special visit from local artist Alex Jimenez leading a tile-making workshop through a collaborative project with Nuestras Raíces, Los Descendientes de Tucson and the Mexican American Heritage and History Museum. Additional collaborators on the Los Descendientes project are: the Tucson Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), District 5 Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Ward 1 Councilmember Santa Cruz and the Pima County Public Library, the Disabled Ecologies Lab at UC Berkeley, Dr. Daniel Sullivan, Arts Foundation for Tucson & Southern AZ, along with numerous local artists, researchers, and community organizers, as well as community members impacted by TCE contamination and its history. For more information about this project: <https://www.losdestucson.com/tce>

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

Murphy-Wilmot Library- How to Draw Cartoons and Comics, Portable Planetarium

Eckstrom-Columbus Library-Yoga

El Río Library – Rodeo Reads

Himmel Park Library – Tohono Chul Park

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Family Storytime, Crafternoon, Arts and Crafts for Adults

Martha Cooper Library – Storytime, Jewelry Making, 3D printing workshop

Valencia Library – Family Storytime, Create Club, Teen Time, Crochet Circle, Garden Hour, Open Sewing Group, Peace Garden Storytime, Yoga with Vivianne Uyeda

Flowing Wells Library – Portable Planetarium

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Martin Randall “Okeefe in New Mexico”

Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library- Anime Club, Cozy Crafters Collective, Sensory Program, 3D Printing, Book Vases & Bookend Art, Lego Club, Teen Advisory Board

Friends of the Oro Valley Public Library- Yoga & Chat Series, Minecraft Gaming for Tweens

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 W. Anne Gibson-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
Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Em DeMeester-Lane
Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Circulation and Activity Measures: February 2025

	Feb-25	Feb-24	Percent Change
Circulation and Visits			
Circulation - Physical	161,439	186,115	-13%
Circulation - Digital	264,279	255,351	3%
Gate Count	243,096	228,568	6%
Website Visits	463,270	514,243	-10%
Cardholders			
Active Cardholders	174,881	162,648	8%
Total Cardholders	304,337	267,250	14%
Percent Active Cardholders	57%	61%	-6%
Virtual Reference Services			
Chat Service - Number of Chats	632	666	-5%
Research Questions	297	309	-4%
Phone	1,222	1,808	-32%
Mail	78	248	-69%
Programming			
Early Childhood Literacy Program Attendance	4,734	5,669	-16%
Adult Literacy Program Attendance	2,914	3,366	-13%
Workforce Development Program Attendance	703	791	-11%

Library Advisory Board Activity Report
February 2025

BRANCH	Physical Circulation	Computer Use	Gate Count	Number of Programs	Program Attendance	Attendance at Outreach Events and School Visits	Number of People Using Meeting and Study Rooms
Bookmobile / Books by Mail	580	0	220	0	0	17	0
Caviglia-Arivaca	384	62	488	18	160	37	118
Dewhirst-Catalina	2,056	318	3,489	14	45	40	50
Dusenberry-River	10,024	719	7,140	26	375	0	412
Eckstrom-Columbus	4,083	2,777	13,697	37	484	0	873
El Rio	1,801	280	1,410	17	78	96	0
Flowing Wells	2,656	1,440	6,222	59	673	95	460
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo	109	106	1,430	1	18	0	0
Himmel Park	8,428	883	8,986	29	574	39	136
Joel D Valdez Main	4,252	3,635	25,883	27	912	161	694
Joyner-Green Valley	9,374	1,275	11,224	25	499	223	636
Kirk-Bear Canyon	7,788	483	7,260	27	402	234	1,024
Martha Cooper	4,156	1,086	11,864	61	667	390	1,381
Miller-Golf Links	11,899	1,358	9,663	18	340	0	611
Murphy-Wilmot	13,947	2,962	17,681	62	2,146	400	2,302
Nanini	13,831	1,434	10,399	48	987	83	1,279
Oro Valley	18,898	1,467	32,203	79	1,791	0	711
Quincie Douglas	2,726	1,680	7,991	64	702	197	539
Richard Elias-Mission	0	0		0	0	0	0
Sahuarita	6,043	1,117	7,991	43	663	193	1,685
Salazar-Ajo	1,252	285	3,467	58	434	0	91
Sam Lena-South Tucson	630	971	3,544	27	169	20	149
Santa Rosa	450	635	8,785	13	167	131	544
Southwest	1,559	361	4,040	1	14	207	0
Valencia	4,525	2,250	8,110	68	867	284	1,758
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station	6,679	362	7,060	15	249	0	550
Wheeler Taft Abbett	10,871	1,050	15,487	64	834	173	1,441
Woods Memorial	8,080	2,881	10,851	25	271	90	326
Web Renewal	4,358	0		0	0	0	0
Adult Services	0	0		121	1,115	125	0
Youth Services	0	0		0	0	250	0
TOTALS FEBRUARY 2025	161,439	31,877	246,585	1,047	15,636	3,485	17,770
TOTALS FEBRUARY 2024	186,115	31,723	228,568	1,238	17,279	2,356	15,797
Percentage Change	-13%	0%	8%	-15%	-10%	48%	12%

*Mission Branch closed in February 2025