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**DATE:** September 4, 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 – August 2025**

**Library Services Manager (Community Engagement) - Alina Rowe**

**Affinity Teams**

For the month of August, the Biblio Lotus team decided on a date to begin the strategic planning and goal setting work.

This month I was able to facilitate a trip to Ajo so that two of the Many Nations team members could plan out the model they will be presenting at the upcoming Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums conference.

The Many Nations team also met in person to celebrate the chair's work while leading the team. They will be stepping down from leader duties due dedicate more time to their personal life and work life. They will continue to be active members of the team.

The Pride team will now have a new admin liaison who will guide the team in their many endeavors.

This month I was able to attend interviews in collaboration with the Goodwill youth program and AmeriCorps. The Pima County Public Library will be able to host possibly three youth workers through this program. This partnership helps youth gain stronger work experience while working at the library.

The Many Nations Team met with the Literacy Connects team to talk about having the affinity teams participate in story demonstrations to bring awareness on the importance of representation in children's literature. The teams will share these presentations with the volunteers of Literacy Connects.

**Latinx Community Engagement Manager – Mary Pastrana**

During the month of August, the Latinx Services team attended the first Book and Author Committee meeting, hosted by the Tucson Festival of Books. We received training on the

database and grid systems on August 20th and 21st. This will allow us to capture and input information for invited and confirmed authors as we receive it.

Pima County Public Library's Nuestras Raíces and Many Nations affinity teams will be collaborating with Literacy Connects Reading Seed Library on volunteer skill-building. Our affinity teams will curate a demonstration of our best practices centered around public service and share information on our affinity teams' missions and goals. We met to discuss the details of these trainings on August 11th and 19th.

On August 5th and 14th, the Latinx Services team met with the CEO Youth and Adult Services teams to support their upcoming in-person meeting agendas. Our team will facilitate an activity and supplement the meetings with information on outreach opportunities.

On August 14th, we met with staff at the Quincy Douglas branch to discuss the future of the Frank De La Cruz Collection. Nuestras Raíces will be seeking to generate interest in establishing a committee that will provide guidance on the future of the collection.

Nuestras Raíces will be participating in the Culture Kitchen at Tucson Meet Yourself this October. In collaboration with Biblio Lotus and the Chinese Chorizo Project, we are gathering recipes from our members, which will be showcased at the event and in a booklet that will be distributed during Mes de la Cultura. Through this collaboration, our affinity teams will explore the intersection of our cultures and honor the deep historical ties we share in Tucson. We met on August 20th to discuss the partnership and format of the event

Nuestras Raíces hosted its first in-person meeting on August 22nd at the Joel D. Valdez branch. We were pleased with the high level of participation and plan to host in-person meetings on a quarterly basis.

Lastly, our Latinx Services Librarian, Samantha Neville, had her Mega Mania blog post featured in this month's edition of the AzLA newsletter. You can access the article here: <https://azla.org/resources/Newsletters/2025-08-AzLA-Newsletter.pdf>

### **Workforce and Economic Development – Matthew Landon**

In August, Workforce and Economic Development staff reached out to three partner organizations and presented website tours where we guided folks to services and electronic resources available from the library. Members of the Arizona Digital Inclusion Network, Pima County's Community Workforce and Development department, and Banner Health, were very appreciative and excited to learn about the health and wellness programs we offer, our GED classes and Career Online Highschool, our loanable technology, and the many career, vocational, and test prep resources available from the library.

We were happy to host Goodwill Career Center staff at our Adult Services meeting, who told us about their new series of four core workshops for clients to learn resume building, work skills, and interview prep at their six locations. Three of us travelled to Goodwill's Youth Reengagement Center location to meet with Goodwill staff and learn about the Goodwill Youth Metro Smart Schools program, GED prep, reentry, trade certificate, housing, education and employment programs they offer. We gathered information to report back to the next service level meetings for adult and young adult serving library staff.

On August 7, three library staff and one volunteer travelled to the Tucson Convention Center for the annual Second Chance Job and Resource Fair where we set up computers and a printer and helped formerly incarcerated people apply for jobs online and update and print their resumes for

the 35 employers there that day. The fair was a big success where over 450 job seekers met with employers and mingled with the 50 resource tables present.

On August 12, the Literacy Connects teacher trainer came to the Joel Valdez Main Library and presented a professional development for 26 staff on helping patrons with digital skill building. Staff help patrons with their digital skills on desk, in classes, and in drop-in tech help sessions. We supported this essential service by offering a three-hour in-depth dive into both the emotional components of adult learning and the technical needs of patrons seeking to advance their goals at the library.

In July and August, our Career Online High School (COHS) program experienced a boom in interest. Pima County adults aged 22 and older express their interest in COHS by filling out a Career Readiness Survey. The number of surveys submitted went from 36 in June to 152 in July. The Library Foundation and library admin periodically fund scholarships for students, and we are down to three available from the batch previously purchased at the end of last fiscal year. There are 57 actively enrolled students and 19 graduates so far this year.

We continue to lend out Chromebooks and hotspots and received messages of appreciation from one COHS student who used our loanable technology to complete their high school diploma program, and one student who is graduating in August with their bachelor's degree. 99 requests for loanable technology were submitted in July.

#### **Library Services Manager (Support Services – Kate DeMeester-Lane**

We've been working to get the balance right with our on-demand digital download service, Hoopla. Our monthly budget for this popular service is broken down by day, and once the daily limit has been reached, no one can check out further titles until the next day. As of July 1, 2025 we reduced the number of monthly borrows down to 5 for all customers, in hopes that this would extend the time of day that this service is available. This did give us some benefit, but not as much as we'd like to see, so we are adding an increase to the monthly spending limit for the service. We will continue to keep a close eye on the improvements, and hope that more customers will be able to access the service later in the day.

#### **Collection Development/Technical Services/Delivery – Lorenia Diaz, Librarian III**

Our Collection Development Office (CDO) started their selecting process for the Opening Day Collection for the Richard Elías – Mission Library. The team has made selections for Board books, Easy Readers, Picture Books, Juvenile Biographies, Juvenile Nonfiction, Juvenile Graphic Novels, Adult Classics, Adult General Fiction, Adult Mystery, and Adult Westerns. The CDO team will be visiting branches to offer support and ideas for collection maintenance.

This summer the Technical Services Team (TSV) met with staff at Himmel Library to support the transition for customers and staff of their renovation closure. TSV customizes the plan for managing the movement of key resources like new books, magazines and Interlibrary Loan materials and more based on the needs of the community and the length of the closure. We continue working with CDO on the Richard Elías – Mission Library Opening Day Collection.

We managed some supply chain issues with our main vendor and had to pivot to secondary vendors, with added strain to the TSV team.

We also welcomed a new Librarian 1 to the team and a new Librarian 3 to support both CDO and TSV. We are very happy to have the necessary support so that we can continue to support the PCPL team.

**Youth Services – Leila Duncan**

Restarted library visits with Tito to youth living at The Craycroft, a temporary housing unit for families that have been evicted run by Pima County's Emergency Eviction Legal Services.

Attended two Back to School events at apartment complexes with Tito, hosted by COT's Violence Interruption and Vitalization Action program (VIVA), distributing books, some school supplies and library resources for students.

Worked our Megamania event held at PCC Downtown, where we distributed over 1,200 books to youth of all ages.