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**DATE:** February 5, 2026

**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 – December 2025**

**Affinity Teams – Alina Rowe**

**Biblio Lotus:**

We finalized the Lunar New Year performances that will take place on February 7<sup>th</sup> at the Oro Valley branch and February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Joel D. Valdez Branch. Tucson Chinese Association Lion Dancers and Jasmine Asian Music will perform at both locations.

We are planning a couple of Lunar New Year blog posts: One on the Chinese Lion Dancers to feature them in a community spotlight and one on a local Vietnamese artist who teaches photography at PCC and a Vietnamese staff member who will share their traditions of Tết, the festival of Lunar New Year celebrated in Vietnam.

There were two bilingual Korean story times, one for toddlers and one for preschoolers, at Kirk-Bear Canyon as a collaboration between two team members on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

We have two AAPI artists who are working on contributing coloring pages for the Affinity Team coloring book, hope to have their drafted images by mid-January.

A couple team members are exploring the list of TFOB authors who identified as Asian-American in their profile to see if there is opportunity for an author talk and/or interview-blog post.

**Kindred:**

The Kindred Team continues to plan for 2026. We will have an extensive planning session in the new year but are also in the process of compiling the titles for next year's Books Invited to the Cookout publication. Regarding programming, the month of December has been quiet, but will culminate in the final Read Black Book Club meeting of the year on December 27, where we'll discuss and celebrate books by Black authors that were released in 2025.

**Many Nations:**

For the month of December, the Many Nations team had a two-part in-person meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The first part of our meeting discussed projects and team plans, as well as sharing input about the structure of our future team leaders. The second part of our meeting was

intended to be a holiday social hour with current and prospective members of the PCPL community. Interested members inquired about the work of the Many Nations team where current members shared their favorite memories and philosophies when serving our Indigenous patrons in Pima County. We are pleased to say that our membership has reached 26 people dedicated to serve our Native and Indigenous populations. We are planning on having an onboard training for these incoming members about intertribal connections and teambuilding in January of the New Year. We are very excited to contribute two Indigenous artists, Selina Mullen and Shaun Beyale, for PCPL's first library coloring book, a collaborative effort with all our Affinity Teams.

### **Nuestras Raíces:**

On December 1, the Latinx Services team attended a meeting with the book and author committees who are presenting at The Tucson Festival of Books. On December 7, we attended Chapter One at the University of Arizona Campus Store. The event served as an unveiling of the first batch of authors who are coming to the festival in March 2026. The Friends of the Festival also brought author C.M. Kushins to discuss his book *Cooler Than Cool: The Life and Work of Elmore Leonard*. For a list of 2026 authors, you can visit: [Tucson Festival of Books | 2026 Festival Presenting Authors \(A-Z\)](#).

Our team is continuing to work on details related to our stage at the Tucson Festival of Books. These include panel descriptions, editing author records, inviting moderators, and working alongside other committees for a successful event. We have also met this month with CSO to discuss marketing materials, ways in which we can expand our reach to Latinx and Indigenous communities of Pima County, and deadlines.

On December 9, Nuestras Raíces and REFORMA Tucson held a joint meeting at the Sam Lena Library. We were joined by founding REFORMA member, John Ayala. Mr. Ayala presented the *History of REFORMA* to members and answered questions about Latinx Librarianship. The meeting was attended by 16 members.

On December 13, Nuestras Raíces held an event featuring TucSon Jarocho at Flowing Wells Library. TucSon Jarocho is a group that plays traditional music of Veracruz, México. The music is a blend of Indigenous, African, and Spanish rhythms. The performance was interactive and well attended by over 55 community members.

Here is a blog about TucSon Jarocho: [Enjoy a performance by TucSon Jarocho! | Pima County Public Library](#) and in Spanish: [¡Disfruta un concierto de TucSon Jarocho! | Pima County Public Library](#).

On December 17, the Latinx Services team collaborated with Green Valley Library team member, Maria Sirmons. Maria is also a Nuestras Raíces member and does outreach to our Pima County communities in Amado. For this collaboration, we created a program for the Amado youth, highlighting the flower, cuetlaxochitl. In English, it is known as a poinsettia.

As we wrap up the year, the Latinx Services team and Nuestras Raíces send you warm wishes for a happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

Here is a tip from Nuestras Raíces during this winter season: grab a warm cup of champurrado and check out a book recommended below by Nuestras Raíces members.

[All Are Welcome! ¡Todxs son Bienvenidxs! Bem-vindxs! Bienvenue! أهلاً وسهلاً — a community-created list from GarciaE87 | Pima County Public Library | BiblioCommons](#)

['Tis the Season for ¡Posadas, Poinsettias, y Pachanga! A staff-created list from Pima County Public Library | Pima County Public Library | BiblioCommons](#)

[Pan Dulce — a staff-created list from Pima County Public Library | Pima County Public Library | BiblioCommons](#)

**Pride:**

Pride held its first in-person meeting at Santa Rosa Library since gaining new leadership. We hope to continue in-person meetings either quarterly or biannually in 2026. There were two primary goals that we aimed to accomplish during the in-person meeting – welcoming new members and beginning work on our team plan for 2026 (and beyond).

The Pride Team was very warmly welcomed by branch manager and Pride Team member Briana Turner, complete with a welcome sign in the lobby and rainbow garlands in the meeting room. During the meeting, we used talkback boards to gather the priorities of the team as a whole for Pride Leadership to later adapt into the team plan. We ended the meeting with Pride recommendations that will be turned into a social media post and/or a list for our website.

With the added direction of member feedback, we are excited to continue supporting our LGBTQIA+ community this coming year.

**Synapse Mental Health:**

On November 22, Synapse team member Melissa at Flowing Wells Library hosted a workshop presented by the Pima County Health Department titled 'Resiliency: 5 Skills' which introduced participants to evidence-based resilience skills to enhance well-being, improve stress management, strengthen relationships, and foster a positive outlook. Attendance was modest at 4, but staff shared the following promising anecdote: "it was a small but positive experience, and we did have a lot of attendee participation. I think the attendees got a lot out of it and they said they'd be very interested in attending similar programs in the future. [...] I would definitely recommend the program to other libraries as Heather [the presenter] was great and it seemed to be a valuable experience for everyone who did attend." Going forward, we hope to develop a quarterly workshop/event series with the Health Department program.

On December 8 and 12 respectively, Synapse staff at Oro Valley Library and Miller-Golf Links Library hosted the Center for Neurosciences Foundation's "Brain Bus" - a mobile neuroscience laboratory bringing hands-on activities and learning opportunities to patrons of all ages all about our amazing brain's function. Synapse team member Jana reported that the Brain Bus was very well received at GLF, with approximately 20 visitors joining in the fun: "The Brain Bus was amazing. Can you trace while only looking in a mirror and not at your paper? I thought I could, but it was so much harder than I thought. And it's all because of hand-eye coordination. We got to test our motor coordination and play tricks on our own eyes! Did you know that your eyes connect to the very back of your head? And that's nothing on where your nose is hooked into your brain! The Brain Bus really makes you work because it shows you where your brain takes shortcuts every day. I highly recommend it. I had so much fun, even if I do feel cross-eyed now."

Our work on our postcard-writing program continues; we expect to receive the final iterations of our 3 custom Synapse postcard designs featuring wintry vibes and positive affirmations from local artist Audrey De La Cruz (@AnnotatedAudrey; annotatedaudrey.com) on December 15!

**URLs for events:**

- Resiliency workshop @ FLW:  
<https://pima.bibliocommons.com/events/admin/event/6902b101a18afa0c6129d354>
- Brain Bus @ ORO:  
<https://pima.bibliocommons.com/events/690beb9261706d280021556a>
- Brain Bus @ GLF: <https://pima.bibliocommons.com/events/68b0ea0dce3cf62f00ecd520>

**Welcome to America:**

At the end of last month, a group of team members represented Pima County Public Library at the International Thanksgiving Dinner hosted by Tucson Refugee Ministry. The event was well attended, and staff gave away free books and lots of library resources and goodies. Kids and families appreciated seeing the library there and enjoyed their free books. December was a quiet

month for the Welcome to America team, but we look forward to the new year and new opportunities to connect the library with refugee and immigrant communities.

### **Workforce and Economic Development – Ken Zambos**

CEO Adult Services Staff provided computers and resume building support twice in December for the clients of Tucson Indian Center (TIC). The TIC Employment & Training Case Manager said “I want to extend our sincere gratitude for your support and hands-on assistance during our recent resume-building sessions. Your willingness to provide one-on-one guidance to community members made a meaningful difference as they prepare for the upcoming Community Career Fair. Thanks to your expertise, patience, and dedication, participants left feeling more confident, empowered, and ready to take their next steps toward employment. Your partnership truly strengthens our community and helps create opportunities for those who need them most. We deeply appreciate your time, professionalism, and commitment to this effort.” Following this event, we were also invited to participate in their upcoming job fair, scheduled to take place in January 2026.

### **Library Technology – Kate DeMeester-Lane**

December was a busy month for our Library Technology team. The Windows 11 rollout created many problems for organizations across the country and unfortunately, PCPL was no exception. Our team was responsive and communicative in helping staff understand what the known issues were, and what workarounds were available to get them back on track as quickly and smoothly as possible.

### **Collection Development/Technical Services – Lorenia Diaz**

During the last quarter of 2025 we learned that our primary book vendor Baker and Taylor was ceasing operations and impacting the way we acquire books in PCPL. Below is a summary of all the major activities the Technical Services Department has accomplished since the demise of Baker and Taylor.

- Cancel 6,253 Baker and Taylor orders
- Re-order 5,989 orders mainly with Ingram
- Received pallets and pallets and pallets of books and unpacked them.
- Catalogued 1,956 records
- Added 10,011 items
- Processed 10,011 books

The Collection Development team had to pivot their book selection process, look for other vendors for purchase requests from patrons, and adjust quantities. The team had to pull Opening Day Collection selection records from Baker & Taylor and have them ready for when we are able to place opening day collection orders from our new vendor. Before Baker and Taylor ceased operations, we were able to receive 1,628 items for the Mission Opening Day Collection.

### **Youth Services-Monique Perez**

We closed out 2025 by participating in valuable outreach efforts, which included attending a holiday event at The Craycroft, that provided an opportunity to connect with families and youth in a supportive setting. We also participated in two large classroom visits: one including a book talk

and storytime (1<sup>st</sup> grade) and the other being a website and resources overview 6<sup>th</sup> grade). In addition, the team hosted a tour at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library for students from the John Valenzuela Youth Center (JVYC), offering them insight into available resources and services while strengthening connections with local youth programs.