

DATE: June 4, 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 – May 2026

May was a busy month working on booking the various focus groups for our Community Engagement LSTA grant. We have identified 14 communities around Pima County where we will be doing focus groups and finalizing a community forum. The work for this will continue through June.

On May 9th, I participated in the Literacy Connects Board Retreat. This is an annual event, where LC board members get together for a full day of learning about the organization and brainstorming goals on how to better support the mission of Literacy Connects in the coming year. It's always a great way to continue to connect with other board members and learn.

May 15th was the Graduation Ceremony for Service U. Staff learn about all things library. It's a great way to orient new staff to the system's work. We were fortunate to be able to say a few words and congratulate the staff at the ceremony and take a pic with them and their certificate of completion. It's always a lovely celebration and we really appreciate all the work the staff do to organize and teach various topics during the Service U schedule.

Finally, May is the kickoff for our community engagement process with Line and Space for the move of the Downtown Library to Wells Fargo building. We will be participating in various listening sessions with staff groups and the public starting this month.

Affinity Teams – Alina Rowe

Biblio Lotus:

In May, Biblio Lotus collaborated on a few programs in honor of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) Month.

On May 8th and May 16th, Milani Hunt, a Filipina American artist and children's book illustrator, provided a Watercolor Wellness program, using an image of Mount Mayon and a beach in the Philippines. Patrons enjoyed the relaxing aspect of it and the ability to make their paintings look a lot like the image Milani presented and there were many "oohs and ahhs" as everyone shared their paintings.

Both our teams collaborated on a blog post featuring authors Michelle Yang and Courtney Gustafson about their books that are memoirs about their mental health journeys: <https://www.library.pima.gov/blogs/post/sharing-stories-openly-and-vulnerably/>

Both teams worked together on a book List featuring AANHPI authors about mental health topics: <https://www.library.pima.gov/blogs/post/sharing-stories-openly-and-vulnerably/>

Biblio Lotus held a Community Movie Screening at Martha Cooper Library on May 9th of *To Climb a Gold Mountain*, which tells the stories of four women of Asian descent who lived in America from the 1850s to present day. Through these stories, the film tracks the progression, evolution and legacy of the immigrants in America as they integrate into the fabric of America.

Our team held a Chinese Calligraphy Program at Martha Cooper on May 14th. Calligrapher Ping Situ wrote patrons' names in Chinese calligraphy for them.

We also had blog post interview with Jess Yoon, a children's author, by Megan Hellwig. You can check it out here: <https://www.library.pima.gov/blogs/post/during-aanhpi-month-meet-author-jessica-jess-yoon/>

We showcased AANHPI month with a toddler story time at Martha Cooper Library on May 6th incorporating the following children's books: *Eyes that Kiss in the Corner* by Joanna Ho, *Smiling Eyes* by Linda Sue Park, *The Rice in the Pot Goes Round and Round* by Wendy Wan-Long Shang, *Like a Dandelion* by Huy Voun Lee and *Bee-bim Bop!* By Linda Sue Park.

Many of the branches were encouraged to have AANHPI displays. We sent an email requesting pictures of the individual branch displays.

Finally, we had an outreach event at the AANHPI Celebration Event at the Historic Courthouse on May 20th where we were able to share information about our team and library resources.

Kindred:

The team met on Wednesday, May 6th and discussed future planning and process for Kindred Tea Party and will fill out a program planner once we are certain of number of materials needed and discuss details of possible authors for years after Tea Party is established. Goal is to have the first Tea Party in 2027 but will continue planning for this.

Kindred completed the first half of new swag orders that will be handed out to patrons at next month's Juneteenth Festival.

Many Nations:

The leadership of 'Golden Hour: A Showcase of Youth Poets' has finalized three host locations across Pima County, from 4:30-5:30 PM: the Richard Elías-Mission Library, Valencia Library, and Woods Memorial Library. Open to youth ages 9–18, these showcases will feature curated readings selected to highlight a diverse range of voices and personal experiences.

On May 26th, the team supported the Tohono O'odham Young Women's Gathering in the San Xavier District, engaging over 70 attendees ages 10-17 with Poetry Workshops focused on healthy expression and self-care. Team members amplified the event by distributing culturally relevant resources, activities and books.

On May 27th, Many Nations had their first 'Golden Hour: A Showcase of Youth Poets' at the Richard Elías-Mission Library. Two more showcases at the Valencia Library (6/9) and the Woods Memorial Library (6/16) will proceed with a final showcase at the Fox Theatre (6/28).

For Adult Services, two Many Nations team members curated titles for our Summer Reading Program booklist: *Read a Book by an Indigenous Author*. This collection explores diverse cultural expressions, spiritual practices, and social realities. The team's President says, "We hope these selections inspire patrons to continue exploring Indigenous literature beyond the summer!"

The Many Nations team is in the process of preparing library content, activities and materials for Mega Mania 2026 from the Hello Kitty Fandom.

Nuestras Raíces:

Latinx Services- Nuestras Raíces Affinity Team

On May 4, our team attended the Tucson Festival of Books, Book and Author Committee meeting at Literacy Connects. There are new Steering Committee Chairs and BAAC Co-Chairs this year. The meeting allowed us to have a refresher on procedures and language used when inviting authors and changes within the committees. Our team has begun researching authors to invite next year.

On May 7, our team presented at Literacy Connects. Our affinity team liaison, Alina Rowe, has been working with the Children's Literacy Program at Literacy Connects on a collaboration for a series of workshops. These workshops are intended to help Reading Seed Coaches with storytelling strategies and ways to engage with children. The workshop series is titled *Reading with Purpose: A Celebration of Storytelling and Community*. Our presentation focused on cognitive and literacy development via visual storytelling. Our presenters included Mary Pastrana, Alina Rowe, and Samantha Neville.

On May 9, our team attended the Somos Puro Love Fiesta Latina in South Tucson. The event was hosted by Somos Tucson and Tucson Love Letter. This was a great opportunity to connect with community members and offer resources on library services. We estimate that we will meet over 300 community members.

On May 22, we hosted our virtual affinity team monthly meeting. We are looking forward to offering a membership meeting at the Sosa-Carrillo House soon.

May is Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Here are a couple of booklists celebrating the AAPI- Latinx connections:

[AAPI-Latinx Connections: Kids Edition — a staff-created list from Pima County Public Library | Pima County Public Library | BiblioCommons](#)

[Nonfiction About AAPI Communities in Latin America and the Borderlands — a staff-created list from Pima County Public Library | Pima County Public Library | BiblioCommons](#)

[AAPI-Latinx Connections — a staff-created list from Pima County Public Library | Pima County Public Library | BiblioCommons](#)

Pride:

The Pride Team has been preparing for the celebration and commemoration of Pride month in June by organizing and planning various Pride activities which will include new book lists put together by several team members, three events (to be announced in later May) and new Pride zine (which will be released in in June). For the zine (the theme for this edition being "Queer Action"), the team sought out submissions beyond the Pride team to include any PCPL staff and

the public. Submissions were collected until May 9th with zine organization and editing continuing throughout May.

In other internal team efforts in May, team members started work on updating the Rainbow Storytime kits by ordering new books as well as archiving/preserving the current books, some of which are signed by the authors. Those updated kits will soon be available to anyone in the system who wants to have a Rainbow Story Time at their branch. Additionally in the team's internal work, the Pride team started a recruitment campaign last month, which was successful in adding new members to the team.

For the team's external/public-facing efforts in outreach and social media, the team commemorated "National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day" on May 16th and "Agender Pride Day" on May 19th with Instagram posts. On May 23rd, the Pride Team participated in outreach for the 3rd Annual "Showfolks Swap Meet" at the 4th Ave Coalition Space, which was an invite from the organizers behind the show, Queerd Science, which has been a strong supporter of the Pride Team. This opportunity was also a first-time experience doing Pride outreach for several members. Lastly, May saw the release of the Library's Affinity Teams Coloring Book, which features two coloring pages for the Pride Team created by Pride team member Mylo Brooks and local queer artist, Melo Dominguez. These coloring books will be used for distribution at future outreach events.

The Pride Team is looking forward to another Pride month full of queer joy and celebration.

Synapse:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! (MHAM) To help Pima County Public Library staff around the system acknowledge this observance in their individual branches, co-team lead Morgen sent out an email to Branch Managers on behalf of the team at the end of April, which included information on how to easily set up a MHAM display, printable resources, and coloring / activity pages, and Synapse-created passive programming materials. On May 1, co-team lead Jurdina shared a blog post on the Intranet, reiterating our MHAM messaging for the wider PCPL community and sharing updates about our ongoing programming efforts. In the weeks since sending out these communications, we have received lots of beautiful photos from branches across PCPL showcasing their MHAM displays.

On May 2, Synapse team members Matthew and Amy represented our team and Pima County Public Library at "Arizonapalooza", an initiative of the 'Camp Wellness' program run by the Family & Community Medicine Department of the University of Arizona College of Medicine Tucson. They connected with about 130 community members, spreading the word about our team and work, and handing out "warm fuzzies" via a passive program that our team designed in 2023. Matthew shares: "Warm Fuzzies are positive affirmations picked from a basket to brighten peoples' day. As we were setting up our tent, one man rode up to our table on a bicycle and asked us what we were offering. He picked a Warm Fuzzy, smiled with enthusiasm, and pulled off his riding glove to reveal a tattoo on his hand that matched his affirmation exactly: 'I am brave'."

The first of our two collaborative in-person events, "Synapse and Biblio Lotus Present: Watercolor Wellness", during which local Filipina-American artist and children's book illustrator, Milani Hunt will guide tween, teen, and adult participants through a relaxing and restorative watercolor class, took place on May 8 at the Joel D. Valdez Main Library and was enthusiastically enjoyed by 26 community members. Synapse team members Holly and Jurdina shared information on

the mental health benefits of engaging in artistic activities as part of the event and tabled on behalf of the team. Sarah E., who represented Biblio Lotus at the event, shared: "My favorite part was when everyone brought their "final works" up to the front table. It was sweet seeing everyone ooh-ing and ahh-ing at all the different art pieces folks made. It was a good community-building moment, seeing both new and regular patrons coming together." The second iteration of "Watercolor Wellness" will take place on May 16 at Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, staffed by Synapse team members Kaitlynn and Morgen.

We are currently finalizing logistics for our collaborative youth suicide prevention event series with Pima County Health Department (PCHD). As of now, trainings are planned for Flowing Wells Library, Oro Valley Library, Sahuarita Library, Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr Library, Columbus Library, and Valencia Library within the June through August range. Next steps include securing marketing assets from PCHD and advertising this event series via our website, Synapse social media, and branch marketing.

Welcome to America:

The Welcome to America team spent the month of May focused on future planning around outreach, upcoming community events and online content for our team Bibliocommons page. A few of our team members are planning interviews and blogs with immigrant authors and community members, as well as content that supports the wider staff community in supporting immigrant community members. As June approaches, the team is coordinating the library presence at the upcoming celebration of World Refugee Day, for which Pima County Library is a primary sponsor.

Adult Services/Workforce and Economic Development-Ken Zambos

In May, the CEO Adult Services/Workforce Development team attended a few events to support their ongoing efforts to promote digital equity and inclusion. The first was an outreach to the grand opening of the Robles Ranch Community Center's Innovation Lab. The Innovation Lab brings computers and technology, like a 3D Printer, to the folks in the Robles Junction and Three Points area to host organizations like the Office of Digital Inclusion in teaching opportunities for residents. The second was Digital Navigator Training hosted by the Office of Digital Inclusion, which library staff attended with the goal of sharing what we learned for the development of more staff led computer classes.

CEO staff attended the City of Tucson Benefits & Wellness Fair and introduced city employees to the programs and services that PCPL provides. The Summer Writer-in-Residence, Jennifer J. Stewart, began her residency. Jennifer was a previous Writer-in-Residence during the Covid pandemic when she held her workshops and consultations virtually. We introduced to staff a brand-new program, Summer Reading for Adults, which features a Reading Tracker and Bingo Cards for folks to track their reading for prizes as well as three community events for people to attend. Tucson Summer Reading 2026 is a collaboration with Tucson Spotlight and Tucson Tome Gnome.

We also met with current and future community partners to continue planning for fall and spring programming opportunities. These partners include Pima Council on Aging, the University of Arizona's Cyber Security Clinic, Sustainable Tucson, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Career Online High School staff continued to support the 45 students currently enrolled in the program and also worked with prospective students that completed the initial readiness survey, which is on track to be 20 by the end of the month.

Youth Services - Monique Perez

May was a busy and exciting month for Youth Services as staff attended end of the year school outreach events and are preparing for the launch of this year's Summer Reading Program, themed *Unearth a Story / Desentierra Una Historia*. This year, Pima County Public Library (PCPL) will offer two separate reading trackers designed specifically for kids and teens to encourage participation across age groups. In addition, MOD Pizza partnered with PCPL to provide kids meal certificates as the grand prize for participants completing the kid's reading tracker. To help promote the program within the community, Monique Perez (Library Services Manager), was interviewed by KGUN9 on May 12 and participated in a brief segment highlighting the upcoming Summer Reading Program and its offerings.

Our branches are hosting fun and engaging storytimes and programming all summer (many programs centered on dinosaurs, archeology, and paleontology). Additional information can be found at: <https://www.library.pima.gov/summer/>

Collection Development/Tech Services – Lorenia Diaz

The collection development office and the technical services department are happy to announce that Pima County Public Library has added a new system that will bring titles in high demand in an affordable and faster process than regular book orders. This service is called "inDemand" from Ingram our primary book vendor. InDemand books look slightly different than regular PCPL books; these come processed from our book vendor with a distinctive inDemand band on the lower left side of the book and with the barcode placed on the back of the book.

Both departments are continuing to work with our book vendor to be able to bring back our Lucky Days books loved by our community and library staff.