
DATE: November 7, 2024

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: Public Services Report – October 2024

Library Services Manager – Em Demeester-Lane

This month I met with Managers and welcomed two new managers to my team: Tara Foxx-Lupo from Martha Cooper Library is now working with me as well as Morgen Daniels who was selected for the Detail Manager position at El Rio Library. I had the pleasure of filling in and visiting Martha Cooper and Valencia Library and met with staff from each of those branches. I have been working with Managers across the system on ways we are moving to streamline scheduling and programming, so I've been speaking to staff at their meetings on a more regular basis. IN addition to this, I continued my work with our consultant project to examen the psychosocial needs of library users in our community as well as attended the Trauma Informed Care Team and Vulnerable Populations meetings.

I attended the Arizona Library Association Conference in Fountain Hills this month. As a member of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, I organized our first mixer which was a success with about 45 AzLA members attending. I attended programs on self-service library models, serving customers with disabilities, Indigenous Librarianship and Bookmobile and mobile library services. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with library professionals across the state. I was also happy to celebrate one of our own library stars, Children's Librarian Brianna Chillious, who was honored with the Outreach Services Award.

Library Services Manager – Vicki Lázaro

I have been providing in-person and Teams video check-ins with the Managers of Murphy-Wilmot, Miller-Golf Links, Dusenberry-River, Wheeler Taft Abbott Sr., Santa Rosa and Flowing Wells Libraries. I spent the month having multiple Q&A sessions with my branches about solving immediate staffing needs. Celebrated the retirement of Jane Devereaux at the Wilmot library at a party in her honor. Helped Green Valley Library celebrate their 50th anniversary at their party. Supporting administration and assisting branches by attending and/or participating in the Collaborative Action Team Meetings, Policy Review Team meetings, Library Advisory Board Meeting, PRIDE Affinity Team, Library Planning Task Force, Intermittent Task Force and Public Service Managers Meetings. Lead the team for the hiring of the Librarian 2 Manager detail position

for Santa Rosa Library. Currently the hiring manager co-lead on the permanent Librarian 2 positions. Working with the Public Services team to assess the needs of the branches and placements for upcoming Librarian and Library Associate hired staff. Supported my branches by filling in to cover lunches and other shifts while staff were ill or on vacation.

Supporting my professional development by applying for the Deputy Director of Public Services position.

Library Services Manager – Ken Zambos

This month I had the opportunity to work and connect with staff from several library locations while covering desk shifts. The Paid Presenter Team has continued to make updates to the presenter list and are preparing to provide staff systemwide with improved access to presenter information for fiscal quarter 3. I have also met with Managers from the eight branches I directly support, to assess their current needs including programming, staffing, facilities, and more. During this month, I worked on finalizing two additional internship opportunities that will begin in Spring 2024.

District 1 – Supervisor Rex Scott

Dusenberry-River Library – Mikel Stone

October at the Dusenberry-River Branch Library has brought an exciting array of programs and art displays. In the early weeks, we hosted a hands-on educational program all about hedgehogs, featuring a few adorable ones for attendees to pet and befriend. Our Tween Librarian has also been filling seats in our weekly session of "Lasers and Feelings," a rules-light tabletop role-playing game. Participants have embarked on adventures filled with star battles, space zombies, daring rescues, and, of course, plenty of lasers and feelings. Last we heard; the team was stuck back in time—stay tuned for their next escapade!

In the art realm, we're showcasing a collection by two young artists, Timo and Gigi, aged 10 and 6, known as the Red Sun Collective. Their vibrant youth art display has brightened our space and inspired other young artists to inquire about showcasing their work. Additionally, we're hosting the Living River of Words collection, where wonderful handmade art can be found everywhere.

To celebrate the spooky season, our Teen Librarian organized a screening of "Five Nights at Freddy's." Despite everyone trying to appear brave, screams echoed from the meeting room throughout the movie!

Nanini Library – Caitlin Burns

Nanini's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) is enthusiastically planning a Fall Festival for families later this month. The fest will offer carnival style games, crafts, and a movie, all planned and coordinated by teens in the community for kids and their families.

A new dog has joined Nanini's Read to a Dog Team. Sadie, a Maltese, is the newest addition to the program with weekly visits on Tuesdays. Read to a Dog creates a low-stress environment for kids to practice their reading skills with the help of a non-judgmental listener.

The Pima County Natural Resources Department brought another great program this month with *Saguaro Stories*, focused on the fascinating interrelationships between saguaros, other desert plants, and animals. Kids planted a saguaro to take home with them.

English Language Classes started back up this month and attendance was full by the second week. Special programs in October included a performance by Harpist Rebecca Foreman, and a Balloon Creations class.

Kudos: one customer had been struggling with her insurance company after her roof collapsed during a summer monsoon. A Nanini staff member worked patiently with her to craft an email as she was not comfortable using computers. As she left, she told staff at the desk “I don’t know what I would have done without this library during my life. I have been coming here for 30 years and you are all so lovely and kind.” As she looked over to the staff member who had just helped her, she had tears in her eyes as she thanked her especially.

Oro Valley Public Library – Kaitlyn Sparks

The Oro Valley Library hosted Antoinette Hurtado, Diplomat in Residence for the U.S. Department of State. Ms. Hurtado shared about the career opportunities available through the Department of State. Employees travel the world and experience adventure, all while making a global impact and strengthening America’s interests abroad. Ms. Hurtado also shared information about internships and study abroad programs. Numerous high school students attended, in addition to adults looking to make a career change.

Oro Valley Library partnered with Tucson Symphony Orchestra’s outreach department to bring TSO music to Oro Valley! The library hosted Ben Albertson, TSO’s principal harpist, who performed an exciting harp repertoire. There were 52 people in attendance, and audience members commented that the program was “excellent, just excellent.”

In October, Oro Valley library held a Paper Toys Program for tweens, where they engaged in coloring, cutting, and gluing paper to craft fun and unique creations that they could proudly share with their friends and family. This Halloween, Preschool Storytime was extra special with songs, dancing, crafts, storytelling, and a costume parade!

The Library Teen Advisory Board is busy getting ready for their Fall Festival (A Harry Potter Halloween). It consists of an Escape Room, a drawing and costume contest, wand and potion making. Teens worked with our staff to plan, arrange and organize the upcoming event.

District 2 – Supervisor Matt Heinz

Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Kelly Wilson

This month at Eckstrom-Columbus we’ve been busy with Storytimes, chess, read to a dog, crafternoon, book club, and just being part of the daily lives of our patrons. We have a busy floor during the after-school hours. We started classes for English Language Learners, both beginning and intermediate. Our patrons have been asking when classes will resume, and we are happy to be able to accommodate them.

Our after-school snack program provides many opportunities to talk with our young people about their day, their frustrations, and their hopes. Weekly we have bilingual job and tech help. Our Spanish speaking patrons light up when they learn that they can get assistance here. Yoga with Vivianne Uyeda continues to be popular and sought after by our patrons. The Fall Luminaries program pulled in a crowd and was fun for the staff and patrons.

On the 11th, Pima County Health Department Mobile Clinic hosted a vaccine clinic at this branch that many people took advantage of, including patrons and staff. Our Homelessness Resource Navigator continues to be busy the whole time he is here. It has been a great month, and we are proud of the work we’ve done and are continuing to do, as well as the value we bring to the community.

Sahuarita Library – Betsy Langley

We held a fun kick-off event for a new Teen Advisory Board with Eegee's! A group of tweens and teens joined us to find out about volunteering at the library and ways they can contribute to create the library they want to see.

Family Storytime is also back on Tuesday mornings after fall break. Babytime and Read to a Dog are immensely well-attended, as well. The community loves these programs. And some of the Sahuarita babies are turning into toddlers, so we created a monthly Toddler Build program where youngsters can build with giant Duplos and other materials. It's been really popular with local families.

Volunteers from Literacy Connects are back to teach two English Language classes this fall – Beginner and Intermediate. Our Book Club is reading *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. Registration for an eight-session adult writing workshop called Self Stories is full! This structured course has writing assignments, shared readings, and peer feedback for a limited group of eight participants. Some powerful writing has surfaced, and participants are enjoying this new program.

Volunteers from local social service agencies – COPE and Valley Assistance Services – have been tabling regularly to answer questions and connect community members with the resources they need. We've created some beautiful book displays this month, including spooky teen stories, fall picture books, literary fiction, and the celebration of Mes de la Cultura.

Sam Lena–South Tucson Library – Lu Guerrero

The library resumed hosting Literacy Connects' ELAA Classes in October. The classes meet twice a week and are designed for beginners and intermediate learners. Weekly Job Help services continue to draw customers seeking assistance with resumes, applications and more job-hunting activities. Staff have also partnered with SCORE Southern AZ to provide the workshop *How to Start a Food Truck* for business-minded community members. The event was promoted bilingually, English and Spanish, and a bilingual presenter was present to assist with translations. The COVID test kits are a sought-after service among the library's community. Staff receive phone calls about their availability on a daily basis.

Santa Rosa Library – Michaela Grady

With the weather getting marginally cooler, we've been celebrating all things outdoors this month at Santa Rosa Library. The Living Streets Alliance came for a visit and hosted a bike repair for the community. One of our young patrons who hadn't been able to ride his bike for a couple of months was able to get it tuned up and can once again get out there! Many other families and children were able to get bike repairs and receive helmets for safe riding. We also welcomed representatives from Saguaro National Park to present a program on bats; Smokey the Bear came for a very special story time; Pima County Parks and Recreation presented *Living River of Words*, as well as a *Pollinator's Play* story time; and the Tucson Astronomy Association presented *Solar System in Your Pocket*. Santa Rosa Library loves working with local partners to boost the programming we are able to offer to the community.

In addition to all of our nature themed offerings, we had other community partner programming from AZ Health Zone presenting nutrition, and our weekly Read to a Dog continues to help children improve their literacy skills and confidence in reading. Finally, as one Make Way for Books *Story School* ended, another has already begun! This popular program is an excellent resource to the community.

Santa Rosa Library staff presented some Halloween themed programming with a Halloween painting as well as a Halloween story time. The ever-popular bilingual Loteria is always a hit with

our tweens and young adult patrons. We also had some gaming afternoons and a couple of crafternoons to round out our offerings.

District 3 – Dr. Sylvia M. Lee

Caviglia-Arivaca Library – Jodi Ohlson

Autumn in Arivaca started off with Arivaca Days, a community wide celebration in which all our local non-profits and businesses come together to celebrate all things Arivaca. The Caviglia Arivaca Library gave away free books, information about our many services, and our One Seed Pima County Nasturtium seedlings grown by our new full-time librarian. The week after that outreach we received several seed donations from local gardeners, including pomegranate, squash and sunflowers.

Our Teen Advisory Board (TAB) has been working diligently to create the room props for their upcoming Day of the Dead Escape Room based on the Pixar movie *Coco*. The Caviglia Arivaca Library Book Club tried their first science fiction title, *Light Years from Home by Mike Chen*. It received mixed reviews overall which likely influenced their next title, which is firmly rooted in the earth: *Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer*. These books were generously purchased by the Friends of the Caviglia Arivaca Library, and once finished they will be donated back to the library for use as a book kit that can be shared throughout all the branches.

We've had a great turn out for our grief support group. The group has decided to keep meeting with the support of Debra, our visiting nurse and group leader from Valley Assistance Services. The group has meet three times now, and the support and compassion each person has brought is heartening to see and hear- "This is the last place I wanted to be today, and I am so grateful I came..."

Desert Harvester's came down from Tucson and prepared a full day of desert gardening and foraging programs that ended with the participants trying to convince the presenter to move to Arivaca "...because you clearly belong here!" Seeds were harvested to be planted after the last freeze in the Spring of 2025.

Flowing Wells Library – Angie Grischkowsky

October has been a great month at Flowing Wells Library, as we all gear up for the changing seasons. Our newly added Storytimes have been a great success, particularly with the toddler and baby crowds; toddlers and their caregivers love having a storytime designed just for them and their needs, and the baby caregivers adore having the flexibility to choose between two different times. Kudos to our two Storytime facilitators – they've done an amazing job maximizing our offerings.

Fall quarter English classes have begun thanks to our partners at Literacy Connects! Our Beginner class nearly filled up the very first week, and our Intermediate class also enjoys a healthy headcount. New for us this quarter, Literacy Connects is also offering GED Prep in English twice a week! We see a small but dedicated group for that, and we hope word will continue to spread.

This month our new Tween & Teen Services Librarian has gone above and beyond to build relationships with our after-school regulars, paying special attention to early-out days so that we have activities ready to go when the kids arrive. This endeavor has made a marked difference in both corralling the teens' energy and in guiding their behavior in a more constructive direction. Some of this month's activities included a Giant Boardgames Day, Button-Making, Beyblades, Movie Day, and Halloween-igami (Halloween-themed origami).

Finally, on October 12th we had not one but two slime-making sessions for kids! This was a huge hit, and unfortunately left a huge mess which was ultimately worth it! All available staff pitched in to help get the mess taken care of before closing, which goes to show what a great team we've got and how lucky we are here at Flowing Wells.

Salazar-Ajo Library – Daniela Buchberger

October was a very busy month at the Salazar-Ajo Library. The collaboration with the Pima County Health Department offered more than 85 residents the opportunity to receive either COVID or Influenza vaccines. Library staff attended a Fall Festival held by the Gu Vo district on the Western Tohono O'odham reservation. The outreach was the first of its kind with this community and the community had a blast picking out books, coloring sheets and colored pencils to keep.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Sam Hennig

This month, the Children's Team hosted several well-attended events that engaged both children and their families: Smokey the Bear and U.S. Forest Service Hot Shots provided an engaging show-and-tell with their firefighting equipment, emphasizing safety and outdoor education. The Portable Planetarium gave kids and families a version of the night sky inside an inflatable planetarium, learning basic observational astronomy and fostering curiosity about space. The Paper-Airplane Design and Relay utilized the library collection, as children designed their own aircraft and competed for distance and airtime; the event encouraged creativity and applied learning from various library books on the subject. Finally, the Halloween Storytime and Parade, on the last day of the month, had preschoolers dressed in costume for a festive storytime, followed by a library parade where they collected healthy treats at various stations.

In celebration of the Halloween season, we hosted a screening of *Monster House* for tweens and kids, with snacks provided. And in honor of All Souls' Day at the end of the month, the Teen Advisory Board helped organize a week-long after-school activity where young participants could decorate sugar skulls, gaining appreciation of that popular cultural tradition of Mexico. Later in the month, we offered a three-day Minecraft Camp — the first time this presenter hosted at PCPL. The program ran smoothly without any technical issues; the camp provided a platform for tweens and kids to engage in creative problem-solving and teamwork while building their virtual worlds in Minecraft. Finally, a local park ranger presented an informative session for teens and tweens on careers in the National Park Service. The program introduced young people to the various career paths; participants had a chance to ask questions and gain insight into future opportunities.

Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library has recently acquired a part-time Library Program Instructor, Sam, who has been holding one-on-one appointments with library patrons to help them with a variety of computer and device challenges on Tuesday evenings. Abbett patrons are very happy with the assistance. Additionally, Sam is offering computer classes on Thursday evenings that patrons are finding beneficial.

Woods Memorial Library – Chinyere Olumba

Keep Calm its Bat Season! Here at Woods Memorial Library, we were able to appreciate bats in the month of October with a Bat appreciation book and information display, "*The Wonderful World of Bats*" all ages program with Pima County Conservation Land & Resources department from 2:30pm -4:30pm on Saturday, 19th with Melissa, and a *Maker's Mayhem* Paint with a Twist Bat painting program.

Also in October, Woods Memorial was able to outreach at Nash Elementary to over 100 families on October 3rd from 5-6pm. The library also showed the movie, "The Rookie" as parts of its *First Saturday Matinee at Woods* program. The Woods Teen-Tech program on October 3rd was

attended by 10 youth and the *Youth Health Action Team* had a meeting with 21 youth on October 10th.

Patrons will continue to be able to participate with the ongoing programs in October with Read to a Dog on Wednesdays and Saturdays, *Amphi Pantera* Food Truck program on October 28th, and Lego hour from 3 to 4:00pm on Tuesday's.

District 4 – Supervisor Steve Christy

W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station – Mary McKinney

A book returned in the book chute had the following note attached: *Dear Library Staff, I found my father this summer. I wanted you to know that the work you do has value, and it makes a difference to others. I appreciate you! P.S. Sorry the books are so late. I was on a big journey!*

During the three-week fall break for Vail School District students, in addition to the regularly scheduled storytimes, Read to A Dog, and Crafternoon, library programs included Movie Day, Natural Desert Paints, Intro to Robotics, and Saguaro Stories.

The Guess the Silhouette challenge at the library welcomed patrons to identify the posted silhouettes of 24 characters (with 3 bonus points possible for some specific names) from their favorite stories. 149 entries were received, and 81 of those scored 24 or more out of a possible 27 correct answers. A drawing determined the winners who will receive some fun prizes.

Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library held another booming book sale at the library on October 19. Patrons always look forward to the sales and ask in between so that they can plan ahead.

Joyner-Green Valley Library – Heather Tyndall

Art Talks returned to Joyner-Green Valley Library this month! Presented by docents from the Tucson Museum of Art, this popular series of two talks per month from October through April kicked off the 2024-2025 season with “Diego Rivera’s Two Passions” on October 2 and “Thoroughly Modern Mary Cassatt?” on October 30. Participants in the program, *Draw Your Favorite Cactus Plant with Jeanine Colini*, engaged in creating their own art in the library. The month concluded with another great turnout for the Red Cross Blood Drive on October 31.

But the big event came mid-month when Joyner-Green Valley Library celebrated a remarkable milestone—50 fabulous years as a branch of the Pima County Public Library! Special guests in attendance included Supervisor Chair Adelita Grijalva, Supervisor Steve Christy, and County Administrator Jan Leshar along with PCPL Deputy Directors Marissa Alcorta and Jessica Thornburg. In his remarks, Supervisor Christy recognized the special nature of the Green Valley community for its long support of the library, including the group of volunteers who founded and staffed the first lending library in town. He highlighted other changes to the library over the years and thanked library staff for the celebration as well as their hard work every day serving the community. The festivities also included performances by two live bands, *Bountiful Bluegrass & Roots Music* and *Gertie N The T.O. Boyz*. Library staff member Sophia used her artistic talents to paint the faces of 18 attendees (including a few adults!) with Harry Potter, Spiderman, stars, frogs, butterflies, flowers, one cat, and one dragon! Giant games—chess, Connect Four, and Jenga, organized by multiple library staff—were a hit with kids and their caregivers. Finally, many thanks to the Friends of the Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries for providing funds for the celebration and to its volunteers who served cake, cookies, and light beverages throughout the afternoon.

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library – Christine Russell

Kirk-Bear Canyon Library was ready to fall into October. Despite a flurry of election activity at the branch, we still managed to have four successful story time dates. Our Children's Librarian is holding two bilingual story times each month. This month it was *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* By Bill Martin Jr. One week was in Arabic and the next week the story was presented in Japanese. Our talented staff also created coordinated coloring sheets so kids and parents could practice what they learned at home. In addition, we held a fall costume ball story time.

Keeping with the seasonal theme, our Teen Advisory Board presented fall luminaria making. Teens learned to use the Cricut to cut out designs for their own unique lantern. Our series of three *Create Your Own Video Game* workshops were well attended, with teens and tweens learning the basics of game and program design.

Adults also had a plethora of programming from which to select. Our monthly book club read the non-fiction work *Destiny of the Republic* and they are busy selecting the books for next year. Master Gardeners presented *Herb Gardening in Tucson*. We had a Poison Prevention program for caregivers of children and adults. Our Adult Services Librarian presented *Discover Your Roots: An Intro to Genealogy*. Finally, we wrapped up the month with a harp concert!

Miller-Golf Links Library – Anna Lawrence

Adult programs at the Miller-Golf Links library in October included an informational session for those with question about dementia, provided for anyone with questions and those who would like to create a mindset of a dementia-friendly community. GLF patrons could also learn about Arizona in the Movies, taking a look at the Grand Canyon State's role on the silver screen. Sustainable Planting Design taught patrons how to choose the right trees for the right places so all their plants can grow and thrive while also conserving water. For those more interested in history, patrons could attend a talk about Neoclassicism and the French Revolution, presented by the Center for American Culture and Ideas, speaking about how the French Revolution influenced many of the artists we still appreciate today.

For tweens and teens, they could stop by the Wednesday hangout or watch the monthly movie in the Book vs Movie Club, this month featuring *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. They can also craft hand-sewn creepy dolls, perfect for Halloween. Children have been attending our two weekly story times in very large numbers, and we have also seen a good turnout at our new Read to a Dog program, happening once per month. The last week of October, children will be able to decorate sugar skulls to celebrate Dia de los Muertos. On Halloween, GLF will host Smokey Bear to engage youth in fire safety, forests, and exploring their local environment.

Murphy-Wilmot Library – Kathy Konecny

Murphy-Wilmot worked with the U.S. Social Security Administration to host a Social Security 101 workshop presented by their Public Affairs Specialist. Participants brought their social security statements and received expert feedback on the options available to them.

Intergenerational participants of the Mini Coiled Spiral Baskets programs had glowing praise for the program. They learned to create a beautiful mini basket by using rope cord and yarn. Several participants expressed how much fun they had and were eager to attend the next class by this presenter.

District 5 – Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, Chair

El Río Library – Morgen Daniels

As of late September, El Río is now under the leadership of Morgen Daniels (previously Librarian I at El Río), who accepted the Librarian II (Detail) position and assumed branch manager duties. El Río Library was also thrilled to welcome new staff member Edelyn Pena, who joined the team as a part-time Library Technical Assistant. Patrons have been enjoying getting to know Edelyn throughout the month, and she is a fantastic addition to the team!

During the month of October, El Río Library visitors of all ages have been enjoying selecting books from our educational and beautiful book displays celebrating Mes de la Cultura and LGBT History Month! Young readers and their grown-ups alike are also getting very into the “Spooky Season” spirit by checking out books from our spine-tingling children’s and Young Adult display highlighting age-appropriate horror, thriller, and Halloween-themed reads.

We were thrilled with the turnout at the October 10 meeting of the El Río adult book discussion group, at which we introduced and discussed our picks on the theme of “Magic”. Participants had a great time socializing and talking all things books, and we look forward to reconvening in November when we will be discussing books with “Love” themes. For our youngest readers, our weekly “Read to A Dog” program with Humane Society-certified therapy dog Finn continues to be a highlight. One especially enthusiastic attendee has even begun bringing in her own original stories she’s written and illustrated each week to share with Finn!

Our October 8 all-ages “Crafternoon” program was a hit with record attendance for the Fall season thus far. Participants ranging from age four to adult had a blast folding and decorating origami pumpkins, ghosts, bats, and more- which the group ultimately used to design a spooky pumpkin patch landscape that we are proudly displaying at the El Río service desk! We look forward to adding to this work of community art during our October 22 “Crafternoon” event.

Looking forward to the rest of the month, the El Río team is excited to continue planning for our upcoming outreach program with the El Río Senior Center (early November) and a Halloween Storytime and trick-or-treating visit from El Río Early Learning Center classes on October 31.

Himmel Park Library – Heather Ross

Himmel Park Library hosted its first Stuffed Animal Sleepover in early October. We had eight stuffies dropped off on a Thursday. They explored the library, used the computers, played games, learned how to find books, got help from staff, and got up to a little copier-related mischief. The pictures of all their adventures were uploaded to Himmel’s Facebook account and printed out to go home with them the next day. Two of the stuffies belonged to a human who was a reading coach for a local elementary school. Chatting with the children’s librarian, she said she planned to use the photos from the sleepover to share with the kids she tutored, many of whom are new to Tucson and had never encountered the idea of a public library before. Other stuffies belonged to little ones who were very excited for their friends to have an adventure at the library.

On October 9, Himmel Park Library hosted our Sam Hughes neighbor, Dr. Albrecht Classen, who is a University Distinguished Professor at the University of Arizona, for a lecture entitled The Medieval Monasteries: Spiritual, Artistic, and Economic Utopias. The talk traced the development and cultural contributions of the monasteries from the Middle Ages up to the present day. The 19 people in the audience learned that the earliest Catholic European monastery was founded by the Benedictines, who also established a presence in Tucson not far from Himmel Park Library. Dr. Classen also touched on the importance of the monasteries as preservers and perpetuators of knowledge through their libraries. Following the talk, Dr. Classen invited attendees to stay

behind to ask further questions. While chatting, the professor learned that two people were new to Sam Hughes and had come to the talk in hopes of meeting neighbors. Community connections were formed as Dr. Classen happily introduced the newcomers around to fellow neighbors.

Joel D. Valdez Main Library – Linde Furman/Lorenia Diaz

Joel D. Valdez Main Library staff are eager for cooler temperatures and fall feels! As we move into a new season, we have found ourselves very busy.

We participated in the “HOPE In the Park” Houseless Outreach & Provider Engagement event at Rudy Garcia Park and a Main staff member representing PCPL spoke with over 70 attendees telling them about the resources the Pima County Public Library can offer them including the Our Space Program, Job Help, free events, study rooms, computers and printing, library cards, the El Rio Nurse Outreach program, and more. Our staff had a wonderful time with so many other organizations who help our communities.

Our Space this month was a success. We were joined by several of our partner organizations including the Primavera Outreach team to provide information and help with resources for our attendees.

Our staff member, Wayne, hosted a Grants Lab on October 11 that had good attendance and sparked great conversation.

The Center for Creative Photography installed a pop-up exhibit “Louis Carlos Bernal: Retrospectivita” on the 1st floor of Main Library. On October 1st we co-hosted an exhibit opening event where staff from the CCP provided snacks and coloring pages while encouraging library visitors to interact with the new exhibit by sharing their own memories of growing up in Tucson. The exhibit will run through mid-November.

We have been continuing our regular, after school drop-in program in the teen makerspace. A significant number of youths visit us most days of the week, coming into the library to have a free snack, use computers, and hang out. On October 16th, we hosted a reception for the friends and family of youth artists who participated in the annual Worlds of Imagination art showcase. Middle and high-school students submitted their science fiction, fantasy, comics, or manga-style artwork that has been on display on the first floor of the library for the past month.

We've been doing some serious work on the Arizona Collection. While the Reference Desk is no longer staffed, we still answered almost 550 inquiries this month! Some highlights from customers:

“Thank you thank you thank you. What a resource you are. Our public library needs more of you helping document Tucson's history. I certainly appreciate the investigations you do. I've inquired before I'm sure I'll be calling on you again.” --H.E.

“Thank you so much for your assistance with this, you've been very helpful, and I appreciate it!” -T.A.

“Thank you so much for all your help with my request. I'm thrilled that one of my requested ILL books actually came in today! Reading a good book at one's leisure is truly one of life's simple joys, isn't it? 😊” --A.T.

Martha Cooper Library-Tara Foxx-Lupo

Now in our first full month open, the Martha Cooper Library is full of life as the community uses the branch regularly for their information and engagement needs. Every day more people return to the library and take joy in relishing the new space.

Programming has started off strong! We've already had consistent crowds at our Storytimes, included over 40 people attending our inaugural Family Storytime on Oct.1, and our Tween and Teen Games Arts and Snacks Program (GASP!) is getting a great turnout in our beautiful new Teen space. We already have teen volunteers working on a 3D printing program and are collaborating with our Homework and Reading Help and Snack Program teams to provide consistent, engaging, and nourishing programming in the after-school hours.

English Language and Computer classes are being offered in partnership with Literacy Connects, and attendance and enthusiasm have already been high. Adult services staff are working to identify further programming for our community, engaging in conversations with our visitors about they'd like to see.

The soft reopening of Martha Cooper is a huge success, filled with happy reunions with old friends and connections with new neighbors. Opportunities continue to unfold as we move toward fully establishing our services in the coming weeks. We look forward to our official re-opening celebration (complete with cake!) on Saturday, Nov. 16.

Richard Elías-Mission Library – Closed

Activities funded by Friends Groups

Friends of the Pima County Public Library

- Himmel Park Library – Chess Fundamentals
- Eckstrom-Columbus Library – Yoga with Vivianne Uyeda
- Wheeler Taft Abbett, Sr. Library – Portable Planetarium with Lauren Ard, Minecraft
- Salazar-Ajo Library - Whatever Wednesdays – Family Movie, Folk Dance, Soap Making, Zen Art with Beverly, Resin Casting, Family-Storytime, Yoga Storytime, Ladybug Storytime, Lego Club

Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library

- Sensory Program, Teen Advisory Board, Fall Luminarias, Harp Music Concert

Friends of the Green Valley and Sahuarita Libraries

- 50th Anniversary Celebration, Draw Your Favorite Cactus Plant, Family Storytime, Crafternoon, Arts and Crafts for Adults



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 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
 Friends of the Pima-Green Valley Library, Board of Directors
 Pima Library Foundation, Board of Directors

FROM: Marissa Alcorta
 Deputy Library Director

SUBJECT: Circulation and Activity Measures: September 2024

	Sep-24	Sep-23	Percent Change
Circulation and Visits			
Circulation - Physical	171,131	190,094	-10%
Circulation - Digital	270,603	256,292	6%
Gate Count	228,663	203,969	12%
Website Visits	502,110	493,257	2%
septembrer			
Active Cardholders	170,971	158,569	8%
Total Cardholders	288,171	310,664	-7%
Percent Active Cardholders	59%	51%	16%
Virtual Reference Service			
Chat Service - Number of Chats	604	673	-10%
Research Questions	361	351	3%
Phone	1,227	1,659	-26%
Mail	185	284	-35%
Programming			
Early Childhood Literacy Program Attendance	5,326	4,903	9%
Adult Literacy Program Attendance	417	1,796	-77%
Workforce Development Program Attendance	413	326	27%

Library Advisory Board Activity Report
September 2024

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	632	0	157	0	0	113	0
Caviglia-Arivaca	422	63	479	11	86	0	114
Dewhirst-Catalina	1,852	234	3,458	9	41	61	58
Dusenberry-River	9,915	660	6,657	29	536	0	598
Eckstrom-Columbus	4,688	3,101	13,474	37	496	20	735
El Rio	1,626	371	1,774	18	73	0	0
Flowing Wells	2,807	1,341	6,286	22	323	17	399
Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo	160	139	944	15	1	0	0
Himmel Park	8,751	879	8,343	21	483	43	87
Joel D Valdez Main	4,893	4,094	26,685	32	377	130	934
Joyner-Green Valley	7,845	855	8,216	26	264	125	412
Kirk-Bear Canyon	8,981	475	7,393	22	491	32	926
Martha Cooper	2,649	374	4,982	0	0	0	155
Miller-Golf Links	12,855	1,341	10,989	16	330	15	360
Murphy-Wilmot	15,789	3,293	16,506	42	992	0	1,430
Nanini	14,383	1,289	10,369	33	1,039	19	1,289
Oro Valley	19,676	1,331	26,974	65	1,406	65	916
Quincie Douglas	2,821	1,690	8,586	51	796	40	574
Richard Elias-Mission	0	0		0	0	0	0
Sahuarita	7,130	1,135	7,694	43	747	0	1,994
Salazar-Ajo	1,066	397	3,324	47	373	205	199
Sam Lena-South Tucson	535	1,073		2	22	0	86
Santa Rosa	456	775	10,408	23	246	0	765
Southwest	1,605	296	3,733	38	27	12	0
Valencia	5,087	2,589	9,924	57	795	98	1,178
W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station	7,723	329	8,094	17	273	0	526
Wheeler Taft Abbett	12,259	1,748	12,294	57	626	30	322
Woods Memorial	9,403	2,782	10,920	11	215	0	335
Web Renewal	5,122	0		0	0	0	0
Adult Services	0	0		4	27	128	0
Youth Services	0	0		0	0	618	0
TOTALS September 2024	171,131	32,654	228,663	748	11,085	1,771	14,392
TOTALS September 2023	190,094	30,337	203,969	867	11,638	2,094	12,686
Percentage Change	-10%	8%	12%	-14%	-5%	-15%	13%

*Mission closed September 2024