

---

**DATE:** December 5, 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: Community Engagement – November 2024**

This month continues to be one of the big changes as I have officially moved into my new role as Deputy Director of Community Engagement. I have been learning and connecting with staff that I am newly supervising in Community Engagement, CSO, and Support Services. I have been working closely with LSM's Alina Rowe, Kate DeMeester-Lane and Reneé Bibby to learn about their work and identify how I can support their work and their team's work. I have been reconnecting with current community partners to introduce myself and also have been meeting with new potential partners to talk about possible future partnerships.

This month I have also been focusing on learning our new time management software, Workday, as I am one of 4 departmental trainers that will be conducting sessions with all the supervisors/managers in the Library Department. This will be a big transition for all staff, so our team is providing training, resources, information, and support to help staff navigate this large change in our time management processes. We have begun training sessions that will continue into the second week of December. The county will transition to Workday by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

One activity that I did not mention in my October report was my participation in the ULC (Urban Libraries Council) Leadership Forum 2024 that took place October 23-25<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia, PA. This forum is always a great place to connect and reconnect with other public library administrators (over 240) from other urban library systems across the US and Canada. This year's forum focused on building trust with staff, embracing change, and advocating for libraries with constituents. It is always rejuvenating to attend and connect with colleagues that are also navigating all the changes and trends happening across all public libraries.

To learn more:

[Shaping the Future of Libraries: ULC Leadership Forum 2024](#)

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

This month I was able to attend and present at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, & Museums. My colleagues and I were invited to present information about our Many Nations

Affinity Team and how we work with our partners in the libraries on the Tohono O' odham and Pascua Yaqui Nations.

This month I attended an outreach night at the Tucson Estates community meeting to introduce them to the managers of the Richard Elías-Mission library and the Southwest Library. I also attended an outreach at the Southwest Resource Center for Native American Heritage month. We distributed books and information about the library to children and their parents.

### **Community Engagement Manager – Hassael Cazesuz**

Our Community Engagement and Outreach team has been hard at work creating meaningful connections and celebrating the rich tapestry of cultures in Pima County, with a special focus on the Latinx/Latine communities we proudly serve. Here's a snapshot of what we've been up to:

#### *Celebrating Culture Through Storytelling and Art*

Colleague Samantha showcased the beauty and traditions of Día de Muertos in her blog post, **¡Feliz Día de Muertos! Happy Day of the Dead**. This piece, complete with a vibrant booklist, highlighted new and classic titles, along with insights into this cherished observance. From home altars filled with favorite foods and mementos to the heartwarming traditions of families gathering at cemeteries, Samantha's post inspired readers to celebrate and honor their loved ones while exploring resources from our library.

Colleague Jesús took readers on a literary adventure with his booklist, **Soar Across Latin America**. Featuring picture books that highlight the natural, cultural, and architectural wonders of Latin America, Jesús added depth to this resource by creating a cultural packet. This engaging material was shared with our community partners at Fox Theatre during their special presentation of Grammy and Latin Grammy Award-winning artists ¡Uno, Dos, Tres Andrés! Through vibrant visuals, music, and dance, students explored geography, language, and culture while Jesús's addendums provided teachers and students with opportunities to continue learning beyond the concert. Beyond providing these cultural materials, our goal was to introduce—or remind—our youth, teachers, and their families of all the incredible resources and offerings available at the Pima County Public Library.

#### *Looking Ahead*

Our team is already in the planning phases for the **2025 Tucson Festival of Books**. We're thrilled to bring together a diverse lineup of authors, thought-provoking panels, and captivating themes for next year's event.

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

This November the CEO coordinated an in-person business event by SCORE at the Sam Lena-South Tucson Library. It was an Artists and Creatives Roundtable where local artists networked and discussed the business aspects of their creative pursuits. CEO also tabled at a Pima Community College relay race to celebrate Pride and a turkey trot at Mountain View High School in support of Mother's Against Drunk Driving.

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

During the month of November, I was fortunate to present twice to members of the public about the importance of Freedom to Read and Intellectual Freedom. With record numbers of book bans and challenges across the country, this topic has been of rising interest to those concerned with protecting these freedoms that are foundational to our democracy. On November 5, Election Day,

I spoke to a Tucson chapter of the League of Women Voters. On November 15, I presented virtually for the Secular AZ organization. At the public library, we protect everyone's right to access materials and strive to provide materials that are right for everyone's needs. We also protect everyone's right to select materials for themselves and their own children, and to make up their own minds about whether they agree in part, in whole or not at all with the content of their selections. If there are materials we don't have in our collection that you would like to see, we welcome your suggestions on our Suggest a Purchase page. [www.library.pima.gov/suggest/](http://www.library.pima.gov/suggest/)

### **Collection Development/Technical Services/Delivery** – Victoria Salajko, Librarian III

The Technical Services Department (TSV) has been making excursions out of the office lately to visit partners, and complete projects.

With the expected retirement of a long-time manager, Diane Ward, the team has been visiting libraries that are part of other organizations, to keep our connection with them strong during the transition. We visited the library at the Tucson Museum of Art Research Library, to meet with Libby and Deborah, two volunteers who have devoted many years of service to the museum library. They gave us a tour of their 11,000-item collection, and discussed with us how PCPL plans to continue to support their catalog. TSV also visited the Pima County Law Library and Resource Center, where we received a tour from Director Leanne Yoder, and met other staff on site. They shared with us information about how they serve members of the public looking for legal forms and information. We also learned more about how our collections mutually support the community, and what patrons we refer to them can expect to find there.

TSV also visited the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library, to complete their inventory for this fiscal year. Normally, each library location will complete a portion of the inventory of their collection each month. Since the size of the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Collection is smaller than average, and their staff are on site only twice a week, we decided to take a different approach, and take on the completion of their inventory ourselves all at once. We completed their full inventory for the year in one morning, using a team of six TSV staff. This project saved El Pueblo staff 24 hours of work - this is time they can now spend on other projects to benefit their community.