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**DATE:** February 6, 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 Report – December 2024/January 2025**

**December** came with a continuation of reconnection and new connections with community organizations. I met with the Metropolitan Education Commission for a potential partnership in April for Read Aloud Day. We are hoping to tie this into events and programming we are planning around Día de los niños/El día de los libros (Children's Day/Book Day), commonly known as Día. We hope to work with them and other organizations, like MWFB to promote read aloud events in schools across the city.

I continued to assist with Workday rollout training for supervisors in our department and helped with HR recruitment, such as the LSM interview panel for Public Services.

We are excited to soon have two new Librarian I's transfer into the CEO office that will help with Workforce Development and Birth-to-8 programming. Tentative start for them will be early February.

In **January** I met with the Library Director and the Directors from the Department of Education for the Tohono O'odham Nation, as well as with staff from our Many Nations team to talk about processes and protocols for our library staff to conduct outreach on the Nation with respect and cultural competency. We also discussed the possibility of creating an IGA between PCPL and the Department of Education so we can codify these processes going forward, like the one we currently have with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

At the end of January, I am presenting at the American Library Association's LibLearnX conference. I will be presenting with CEO staff Matthew Landon and library staff from other systems on a panel focused on Digital Inclusion and Digital Literacy and the roles libraries play in providing access to our community. I am including the partnership work the library continues to do with Michelle Simon and Pima County's Office of Digital Inclusion.

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

For the months of December and January I was able to work closely with the Biblio Lotus and Many Nations teams.

Many Nations had their in-person meeting in December and I was able to facilitate a meet and greet with Indigenous author Tom Holm and his wife. Tom Holm will be our Writer in Residence in February.

In January I was able to set up a meeting with our communications team, Many Nations members and Tom Holm to brainstorm ideas about his workshops and how to promote his programs to our Native community.

In January I was able to approve the supply lists for the Lunar New Year program the Biblio Lotus has been busy organizing. The program will be held at the Bear Canyon Branch.

This month I worked with the Native American Student Services in the Tucson Unified School District. The Many Nations team and I attended the Storytelling Night at the Southwest Resource Center where elders from the Pascua Yaqui Nation shared stories to school aged children and their families. The Many Nations team distributed brand new jackets, shoes, books and new library cards at the event. The jackets and shoes were received in partnership with the organization Operation Warm.

I organized a meeting with the Pima County Health Department's team that outreaches to the Indigenous Communities. This meeting was organized to expand our reach and support one another's Departments to better serve our Indigenous Community.

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

### *Community Engagement and Outreach Highlights*

In December, our team has continued to prioritize producing rich, culturally relevant content for our communities while actively participating in meaningful outreach events.

### *Website Content Highlights*

Blog Post: Las Posadas Samantha created a vibrant blog post celebrating *Las Posadas*. The post shares a personal and cultural perspective on the holiday tradition, including memories of family gatherings, traditional songs, and festive activities like piñatas. The post also offers:

- Resources on the origin of *Las Posadas*.
- A curated booklist to get into the holiday spirit.
- A playlist featuring *Las Posadas* songs in Spanish and English.
- Information on the cultural significance of piñatas.
- Links to upcoming Arts & Crafts events to help readers participate in holiday-themed activities.

Book List: Aztec Tales Jesús compiled a captivating list of Spanish English bilingual children's picture books and YA literature inspired by Aztec themes. This list showcases our library's commitment to celebrating diverse cultural narratives and fostering bilingual literacy. These pieces reflect our team's dedication to creating accessible, meaningful content that resonates with our communities and highlights the cultural richness of Latinx heritage.

### *Outreach Events*

Toltecalli High School Community Posada – December 6 Our team participated in a *Community Posada* hosted by Amistades and other local organizations. We provided multilingual books and shared information about library services and resources, fostering connections with attendees.

Posada Themed Resource Fair – December 7 We joined a resource fair organized by the Pima County Communications Office, Pima Animal Care Center, and other community groups. At this event, we distributed approximately 500 books, bringing the joy of reading to many families.

As 2024 ends, we are grateful for the numerous opportunities to connect with our communities through cultural content and outreach efforts. Looking ahead to 2025, we are committed to strengthening existing partnerships and exploring new collaborations to enhance our services and support our communities more effectively.

In January, our team proudly showcased two booklists that celebrate diversity, culture, and intersectionality:

1. *"Black Latinx Stories" by Samantha N.*  
*Let's celebrate the vibrant diversity and intersectionality of our communities!*  
The books on this list were written by Afro-Latinx/Caribbean/Mixed writers and/or feature stories about Black Latinx communities. It includes both fiction and nonfiction, and recent and not-so-recent titles. This booklist serves as a powerful resource to recognize the unique experiences and voices within our communities and sets the stage for Black History Month coming up in February.
2. *"Around the Philippines in 31 Days" by Jesús C.*  
*Dive into Pinoy literature and get a glimpse of the Philippines, its people, and its diaspora through this selection of diverse stories.*  
This booklist offers an enriching journey through the Philippines' vibrant culture, showcasing the diversity of its literature and the diaspora's enduring connection to its roots.

#### ***Tucson Festival of Books –***

Our team has worked tirelessly this January to finalize author invitations, create engaging panels, and source talented moderators from our community. We are thrilled to announce that the Nuestras Raíces Tucson Festival of Books lineup for 2025 is just about finalized. The festival will take place on March 15 and 16, 2025.

You can view our schedule of panels here: [Nuestras Raíces Schedule](#). Additionally, explore the entire Festival lineup for a wide array of literary experiences.

This milestone would not have been possible without the incredible contributions of our dedicated team members. Special thanks to Jesús C., Samantha N., Paulina A-C., and the entire Nuestras Raíces team for their hard work and commitment to making this year's Festival a success.

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

This month, our team began planning a graduation ceremony for the 2024 Pima County Public Library graduates of Career Online High School, to be held at the Murphy-Wilmot Library on February 22, 2025. As program coordinator Jon Meade said, "Having a diploma will allow the 28 graduates to pursue bigger goals that will help not just themselves and their families, but the entire community. Whether it's a union trade program, a professional certification, college, or just a job qualification, having a high school diploma opens so many doors."

This month I coordinated and finalized schedules for AARP and United Way VITA Tax Help to be held at seven branch libraries starting February 1, 2025. The winter session of our partnership with Literacy Connects began this month. They have expanded beyond offering English Language Learning classes to additional GED and Computer Classes offered in both English and Spanish.

Two new partnerships got off the ground this month. The first is with the UA Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, who will be offering enrichment programming for adults at libraries this spring. The second is with Pima Community College Adult Education, who will be offering digital skill building classes at the Sam Lena-South Tucson library starting in February.