
Press and Publicity Report

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LOCAL BRIEF

Pueblo City-County Library district earns certificate of achievement

The Pueblo City-County Library District earned honors from the Government Finance

Officers Association for excellence in financial reporting.

The library district's finance department received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its 2019 comprehensive annual financial report.

The award is the highest recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The report is judged by an

impartial panel and meets the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" in communicating the district's financial story.

The GFOA advances excel-

lence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources and research for more than 21,000 members and the communities they serve.

'Checking out' the great outdoors: Library program gives free access to Colorado State Parks

Zach Hillstrom The Pueblo Chieftain

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The backpack and materials of the Check Out Colorado State Parks program. *Courtesy Of The Pueblo City-County Library District*

Local libraries like those in the [Pueblo City-County Library District](#) often serve as a gateway to adventure, with countless books and resources capable of transporting visitors to another place and time.

Sometimes, that gateway is even a literal one, such as the Check Out Colorado State Parks program —a partnership between the [Colorado Department of Education](#), [Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#), [Colorado State Library](#), and local library districts that allows people to check out a backpack and a parks pass to gain entrance to any of [Colorado's 42 state parks](#).

Jill Kleven, the director of user services for PCCLD, said Pueblo's libraries have participated in the program for the past four years, with 24 park passes split amongst its Pueblo County branches.

“We send those to all of our different branches and they are in backpacks that come with other things besides just the park pass,” Kleven said.

“So customers can get binoculars, there’s a wildlife viewing guide, park brochures for all of the state parks, there’s a tree and a flower guide and then there’s a list of suggested activities to do at the park.”

The park pass is good for entry into any Colorado State Park for up to seven days.

Each backpack and its accompanying materials may be checked out from the library for one week, but cannot be renewed, Kleven said, as library officials want as many people as possible to take advantage of the opportunity.

Nearly 300 libraries across Colorado participate in the program, which eliminates most costs as a barrier from people getting out and enjoying Colorado’s outdoors.

A daily park pass for a single vehicle currently costs between \$9 and \$11, and an annual pass for a single vehicle currently costs \$80.

“There’s a lot of families that can’t afford that,” Kleven said.

“So it’s just a way to provide that service to customers and get them outside and doing something. And I think this year and last year, especially, with how many activities have been limited for people to do (due to the COVID-19 pandemic), people did take a lot of advantage of spending time outdoors.”

Kleven said in the four years PCCLD has participated, the program has seen 765 checkouts.

When passes are already in use, library members can be placed on a hold list, giving them priority when the passes become available.

But even in the busier, summer months, the hold list is typically no longer than a 1-4 week wait.

“We have some customers who will put themselves on the hold list again and just keep checking them out over and over again,” Kleven said.

“So that’s an option, too. If they don’t want to buy a day pass they can do that.”

Also in each backpack is a survey inquiring about the user’s experience with the backpack and pass.

In 2019, CPW published the result of 371 surveys collected that year, which showed 99% of respondents said they were likely to recommend a visit to a state park, 79% said they were likely to purchase a day pass to visit a state park, and 57% said they were likely to buy an annual pass.

Eighty-six percent said their experience helped them learn more about nature, and 94% said the experience changed their mind about the kinds of resources local libraries have to offer.

“I think the public really appreciates the fact that this partnership exists between CPW, the state library and our library district,” Kleven said.

“They just are appreciative that they can come to the library, have a resource and get to do something they wouldn’t normally get to do just because either its cost prohibitive or is just something they hadn’t even thought of.

“They walk in our buildings and they see these backpacks and think, ‘Oh wow! That’s kind a of a cool thing the library is doing, maybe I’ll check it out, literally.’”

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Pueblo Library District participating in Colorado Parks Pass Program



The Pueblo Library District is participating in the Colorado Parks Pass Program.



By: [Tyler Dumas](#)

Posted at 10:41 PM, Apr 14, 2021
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PUEBLO — The Pueblo Library District is participating in the Colorado Parks Pass Program.

This means that if you have a Pueblo library card you can check out a backpack that includes free access to all state parks as well as nature guides and binoculars.

"It's just rewarding to be able to see people check these out and to do something different, especially during COVID when indoor activities are limited. So it's great for them to get outdoors," Jill Kleven with the Pueblo City-County Library District said.

For more information, contact the Pueblo Library District.

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NEWS

Pueblo library district announces launch of \$2.5 million capital campaign to renovate Rawlings library

Joe McQueen The Pueblo Chieftain

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Jon Walker, executive director of the Pueblo City-County Library District, speaks during announcement of the district's campaign to raise additional funds to renovate the Rawlings Library. *Joe McQueen*

The Pueblo City-County Library District announced Tuesday the launch of its \$2.5 million capital campaign to help raise money to renovate the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library.

The district made the announcement in the courtyard at the library where Jon Walker, executive director of the library district, addressed attendees of the event.

Visuals of what the future renovations will look like were present for people to view.

"For over 20 years of heavy use, things like furniture, fixtures and carpeting tend to wear out," Walker said. "All of that will be refreshed."

The total cost of the renovations is around \$11.5 million. This funding will be used to mainly renovate the interior of the building along with adding an exterior site that includes an outdoor amphitheater and expanding the parking lot.

The library district has currently raised about \$10 million through private and public funding, and is pushing to raise enough money to fund the remaining amount of the total costs.

"There's a gap of about \$1 million between the total project cost and the \$10 million we have in the bank," Walker said. "We are fundraising right now to close that gap so that we have more than \$11 million."

The renovations and construction are set to begin this August and will be completed by July 2022.

The interior and exterior designs will be completed by Denver-based firm Anderson Mason Dale (AMD) Architects, who will collaborate with HBM Architects of Cleveland to work on the designing phase.

Construction for the upcoming projects will be done by H.W. Houston Construction of Pueblo.

Members of the community are able to send donations to help the Rawlings Library fill the remaining funding gap.

For more information on how to donate, visit the [library's website](#) to learn how.

MORE: Pueblo United continues to serve community through charity work during the COVID-19 pandemic

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by: Cheryl Hwang

Posted: Apr 27, 2021 / 07:08 PM MDT / Updated: Apr 27, 2021 / 07:10 PM MDT

PUEBLO, Colo. — The Rawlings Library is getting a major renovation inside and out this summer but they will also require the community's help to finish the project.

So far, the library has raised 10 million dollars for the \$11.5 million dollar project but they need help raising the last \$1.5 million.

If you'd like to help, the library district has launched a campaign to give donors the chance to have their name on public spaces throughout the library.

Administrators say the library has seen millions of visitors over the years and the update is much needed.

"Over twenty years of pretty heavy use things wear out all of your furniture and fixtures start to wear out... carpeting finishing on walls when you have a busy public facility like this," said Executive Director of the Pueblo Library Jon Walker.

This project is expected to break ground in August and completed by the summer of 2022.

For more information on how to donate, go to [the Pueblo Library's website](#).