

February 6, 2022

To: PCCLD Board of Trustees: Frederick Quintana, President; Dustin Hodge, Vice-president; Marlene Bregar; Lyndel Gairaud; Dr. Philip Mancha; Doreen Martinez; Stephanie Garcia, and Jon Walker, Executive Director

Dear PCCLD Board of Trustees and Executive Director:

One of my favorite quotes is by Maya Angelou: *People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel.*

It's been three weeks since I left PCCLD and I keep feeling I have some unfinished business. That unfinished business is to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to grow as a librarian in this award-winning library district. Librarianship is a big responsibility, and it has become more so in the time we live. Today, Librarians have greater responsibilities and have the power to change people's lives drastically. Our wish is that change is always for the better. What I have loved most about working here is the wonderful staff that I have seen in action helping patron after patron day after day. I really want those at the helm of running this library district to fully understand how fortunate we are to have the staff we do. I have witnessed hard work, professionalism, kindness, and much more. This includes my fellow librarians, and each member of their staffs, my own department in special collections included.

My most memorable opportunity is when I received a grant from the Colorado Humanities for getting a scholar to write a manuscript about the history of Hispanics in Pueblo County. There was a need because there were only bits and pieces here and there but not one complete resource. I also envisioned from the first day I arrived at Rawlings, a mural in the Hispanic Resource Center, telling the true history of Hispanics in Pueblo County. I first needed permission from our director to write the grant. I obtained permission and one day, Jon Walker, director, called me to see if the manuscript was complete. I had just received it and I sent it to him. He read it and called me to tell me that it was excellent, and it had to be published by the library.

We started the process and I worked with Midori Clark for six months to get the book done. Meanwhile, Chris Brogan, CFO, told me that a man had just left in his will a little around \$6200 for Hispanic art. She asked me if I was interested in using it for a mural. The rest is history, and we now have the first published book by the library and a beautiful mural to go with the book. This project was an example of successful collaboration within a library district with all departments working towards one goal. I have given presentations about why collaboration is so important to achieve our goals.

All this would not have been possible without the support of the Board of Trustee nor the Executive Director. As I go from a staff member to a patron, I trust all of you will continue being good stewards of a library district in a community where it is so needed and is the heart of the community.

Meanwhile, I want to thank the Board of Trustees and Director for making me feel respected as a librarian and important enough to support many of my ideas. My best wishes for a successful new era in our library district.

Charlene

Charlene Garcia Simms
Former Genealogy and Special Collections Librarian, PCCLD