
Press and Publicity Report

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Pueblo Library District asks county for additional funds for Rawlings renovation

Heather Willard The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 1:54 p.m. MT Feb. 12, 2021 | Updated 1:55 p.m. MT Feb. 12, 2021

In an afternoon work session of the Pueblo county commissioners, the executive director of the Pueblo City-County Library District requested \$187,500 as part of an \$11 million Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library renovation project.

Jon Walker, executive director of the library district, informed the commissioners that the majority of funds for the project have been secured but that the requested funding from the county would account for half of a match needed for an additional portion of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

Of the \$11 million renovation project, \$9 million will be provided through existing library funds. The library district has qualified to receive up to \$500,000 in NEH funds, provided there is a matching donation from another organization. The grant provides that for each \$375,000 raised by library staff, the NEH will match with \$125,000. This means the library needed to raise \$1.5 million in private funding.

Currently, \$1.25 million of the total goal has been raised. To reach the last portion of the grant funding, the library requested the county commissioners provide half of the necessary private funds.

Whether the funding will be provided is still unknown, as the county's budget director and other staffers' consultation was required before approval could be provided by the board. However, all three commissioners voiced general support of the project. Commissioner Chris Wiseman noted that the library is a "good place" for the county's money to go toward.

The library hopes to have the county's funding secured by late spring.

The Rawlings Library first opened in 2003, and Walker noted that this renovation is intended to keep it up-to-date and usable for another 20 years.

Design details

The project is currently in the design development phase with construction planned to start in August. The goal is for final occupancy to be available by Aug. 1, 2022.

To continue serving the public, the library team plans to keep the Rawlings Library partially open through the construction process. Many of the administrative and staff spaces of the library will not be touched by the construction, as the project is mainly to refresh and renovate the public portion of the building.

Currently, the children's wing and meeting rooms occupy most of the first floor. Under the new design, the floor will be turned into a maker space, meeting rooms, conference centers and a coffee shop that will overlook the water feature.

The parking lot will also be extended near the front door, and a roundabout will be installed where there is currently a courtyard space.

The main circulating collections will find their homes on the second floor. This includes the children's wing, young adult books as well as adult fiction and nonfiction.

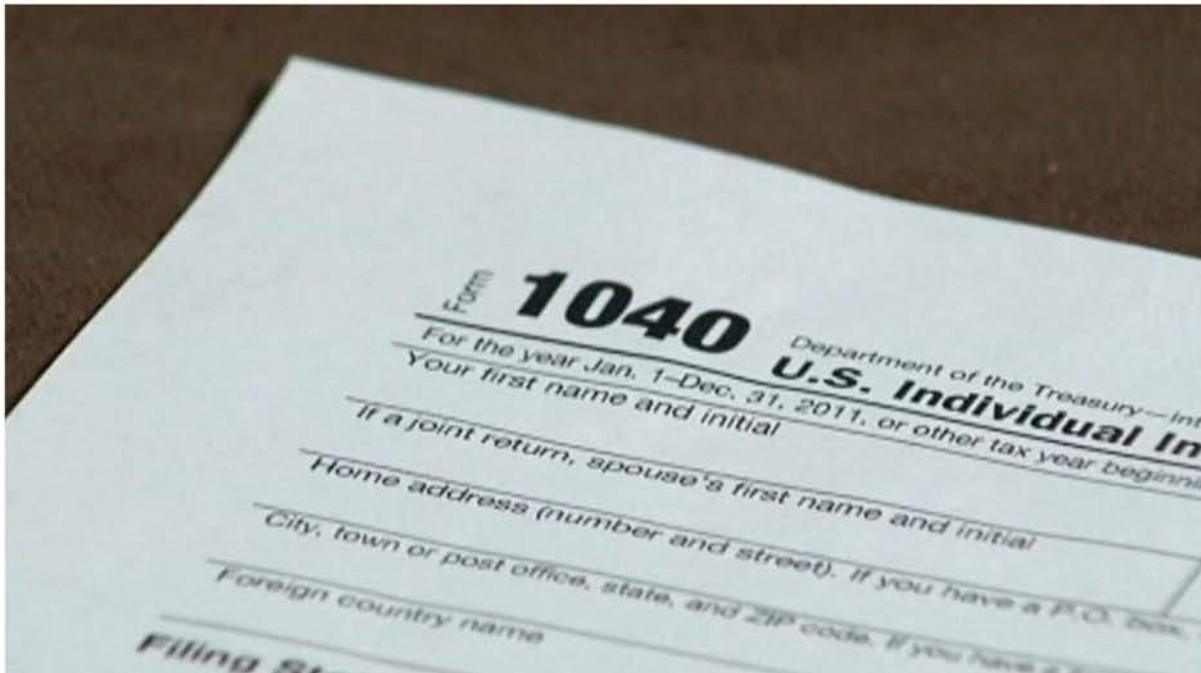
The decision was made to move the children's collection to the second floor due to the higher ceilings. Walker said the goal is to create a more engaging, imaginative space for children to play and learn.

The second floor will also have some quiet reading spaces and a technology zone.

For the third and top floor, the design calls for some updates to the genealogy and archival collections space, and it will also house the Hispanic Resource Center and other research-based matters, like Pueblo historical items and literature.

Chieftain reporter Heather Willard can be reached via email at hwillard@gannett.com or on Twitter @HeatherDWrites.

Free Tax Prep Program set to kick off in Pueblo



(KGNS)

By **KKT**V

Published: Feb. 12, 2021 at 8:30 AM MST | Updated: 6 hours ago

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (KKT) - The 15th Year of service started by the Pueblo Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program will kick off Monday, February 15. The services are happening at certain drop-off locations throughout Pueblo County.

2021 tax season drop-off days, locations, and hours:

- Mondays – Minnequa Park Apartments, 1400 E. Orman – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. beginning Feb. 15
- Tuesdays – Patrick A. Lucero Library, 1315 E. 7th St. – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. beginning Feb. 16
- Wednesdays – Rawlings Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave., 3rd floor training room – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. beginning Feb. 17
- Thursdays – Premier Members Credit Union, 1825 Hood Ave. – 12 – 3:00 p.m. beginning Feb. 18
- Fridays – Power Credit Union – Pueblo West, 120 S. Crescent Dr. – 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. beginning Feb. 19

In addition, special tax days have been added to accommodate taxpayers on three Saturdays by appointment only at Power Credit Union located at 1615 E. Evans Ave., from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 27, March 27; and April 10.

Taxpayers with a total annual household income of \$55,000 or less can take advantage of the free program.

The program will be appointment only and drop-off format through April 13. Appointments must be made at least 24 hours prior to the requested service date if available [here](#) or by calling 719-225-8580. Masks must be worn and all COVID-19 protocols followed to receive service.



News

By [Shelby Filangi](#)

Watch

Published [February 15, 2021 8:07 pm](#)



Rawlings Library looks to Pueblo County for financial help

PUEBLO, Colo. (KRDO) -- The Rawlings Library is looking for financial help to complete renovation projects.

The library is working to build a new coffee shop, new meeting rooms, and an expansion to the parking lot next year. The Pueblo City-County Library District is roughly \$187,000 short of its fundraising goal.

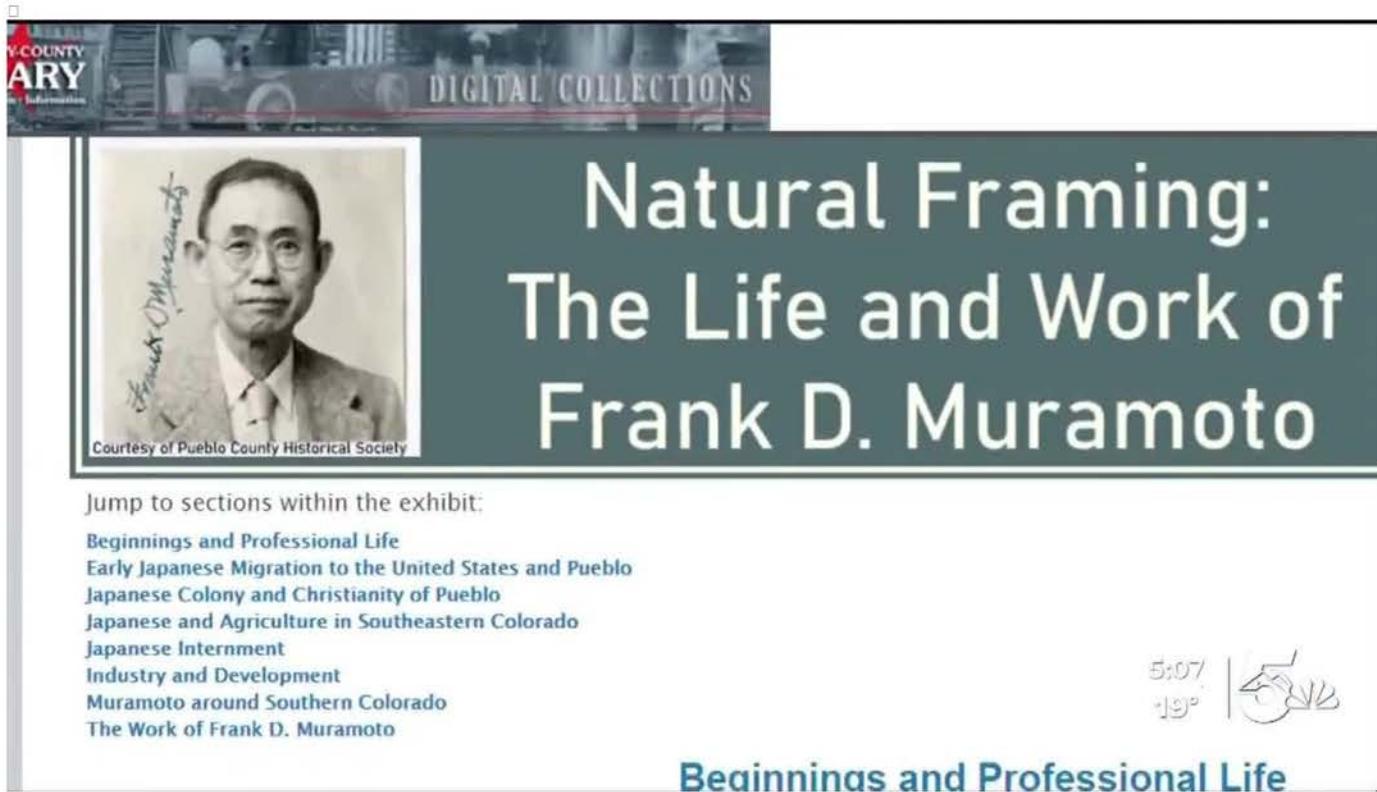
"Believe it or not the Rawlings library is almost twenty years old, and I know that's shocking and the building has really held up well and served our community well," said Nick Potter, with the Pueblo City-County Library District. "However, the Rawlings library pre-pandemic has seen nine hundred to 1,000 people per day coming through its doors. So we want to be able to provide Pueblo with the best possible public library service; It's very important."

Now, library leaders are looking to Pueblo County to step up and help meet their goal.

So far, county commissioners seem to agree. They told KRDO's Dan Beedie that they are hoping to work something into next year's budget.

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Pueblo library highlights historic Pueblo photographer



Jump to sections within the exhibit:

[Beginnings and Professional Life](#)
[Early Japanese Migration to the United States and Pueblo](#)
[Japanese Colony and Christianity of Pueblo](#)
[Japanese and Agriculture in Southeastern Colorado](#)
[Japanese Internment](#)
[Industry and Development](#)
[Muramoto around Southern Colorado](#)
[The Work of Frank D. Muramoto](#)

Beginnings and Professional Life

The Pueblo library district is taking a glimpse into southern Colorado's past. The library made a virtual exhibit highlighting photographer Frank Muramoto



By: [News5 Staff](#)

Posted at 6:06 PM, Feb 18, 2021
and last updated 2021-02-18 20:07:42-05

PUEBLO — The Pueblo City-County Library District is giving the public a chance to look back into Southern Colorado's past.

The library made a virtual exhibit highlighting photographer Frank D. Muramoto.

Muramoto was a Japanese immigrant and professional photographer who lived in Pueblo from 1912 until his death in 1958.

He took photos of Pueblo and other locations in southern Colorado during the time he that lived here.

This includes Royal Gorge, the Great Sand Dunes and the Colorado State Fair.

"He did good work," said Manager of Special Collections and Museum Services Aaron Ramirez, "and its incredible the framing its just the technical expertise that he exhibits is just you know incredible, it is great art."

The exhibit also explores the early Japanese migration to Pueblo.

Before arriving in Pueblo, Muramoto briefly worked for architect Frank Lloyd Wright in Wisconsin.

To view the exhibit click [here](#).

[KOAA News5 on your time, streaming on your Roku, FireTV, AppleTV and AndroidTV.](#)
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Natural Framing: The Life and Work of Frank D. Muramoto

Bridgett Harris 8 hrs ago



Photos courtesy of the Pueblo County Historical Society

Explore history captured on film with Pueblo Libraryâ€™s new online exhibit, â€œNatural Framing: The Life and Work of Frank D. Muramoto.â€ The exhibit is a fascinating look at the Japanese-American experience here in southern Colorado, as well as a unique display of Colorado history.

Born in 1884 in Tsuno, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan, Frank â€œDukeâ€ Denichi Muramoto arrived in San Francisco in 1903 as a first-generation immigrant. For a decade, he moved about the country working different jobs. He started as a laborer on the Union Pacific Railroad, worked beet fields in Colorado and several other jobs. The exhibition notes he even worked for architect Frank Lloyd Wright before attending a leading photography school in Illinois. Muramoto ultimately settled in Pueblo in 1912 and lived there until his passing in 1958.



Photos courtesy of the Pueblo County Historical Society

In that time, he was a prolific photographer and his work spans a variety of subjects. Beyond the studio portraits and Colorado landscape photos, Muramoto also captured the growth and development of business in Pueblo, with shots of the cityâ€™s industrial expansion, workers and production. He also shot events and members of the community as they worked and volunteered throughout Pueblo. He found merit in scenes that many photographers might have dismissed as mundane and in doing so, he created a visual retrospective of life in Colorado.

In a recent press release about the exhibit, Special Collections and Museum Serviceâ€™s Manager Aaron Ramirez said that Muramotoâ€™s photography reflected the diversity of Pueblo, noting, â€œPeople of all ethnicities and races sat for portraits. Outside of the studio, Muramoto captured clubs, religious groups, and served as a school photographer. His camera work extended into his personal and social life, as he filmed and photographed gatherings of fellow Japanese Methodists and documented trips and gatherings with friends and family in Pueblo and abroad.â€



Photos courtesy of the Pueblo County Historical Society

Muramoto wasn't just passionate about still photography. The exhibit also includes a collection of 16mm film reels that detail scenes from some pretty familiar places around Colorado, including the Great Sand Dunes, Pueblo Zoo and the Colorado State Fair. In one film, Muramoto records a drive along a dirt road in San Isabel and Beulah. In another, colorful parade floats roll down a street lined with cheering observers. Some of the footage dates to the late 1930s, digitized using funds from a National Film Preservation Foundation grant. You can catch those online, too.



Photos courtesy of the Pueblo County Historical Society

Beyond simply displaying his work, the library has also put together an engaging online biography of his life, complete with images of primary documents. Viewers can see the young Muramoto posing for a portrait at Illinois College of Photography in 1911, read a letter from Muramoto to Wright announcing that his family had joined him in the United States and that he had purchased a photography studio and much more.Â

Explore the entire exhibit online and check out even more videos discussing Muramoto's work.

Tags



Library exhibit showcases Pueblo history through the lens of a Japanese immigrant

Zach Hillstrom The Pueblo Chieftain

Published 5:02 a.m. MT Feb. 25, 2021



Pueblo library showcasing city's history through the lens of Japanese immigrant's art

Videos shot on 16mm film by Frank D. Muramoto contain footage of agricultural activities and the Great Sand Dunes. *The Pueblo Chieftain*

The photography and film of a Japanese immigrant who spent decades capturing everyday life in Pueblo is on display through an online exhibit presented by the Pueblo City-County Library District.

“Natural Framing: The Life and Work of Frank D. Muramoto” showcases the vast body of work captured on film by Frank “Duke” Denichi Muramoto, a native of Japan who lived in Pueblo from 1912 until his death in 1958.

Muramoto’s high-quality collection showcases Pueblo’s history and diversity.

“He’s a very good photographer so his images are clear and the subjects he’s featuring ... were people of all ethnicities, of all races and backgrounds,” said Aaron Ramirez, manager of special collections and museum services for the library district.

“He captured different pockets of cultures and people through time.”

Muramoto, who owned De Luxe Studio at 1142 E. Evans Ave., photographed a wide range of subjects, from parades, picnics and friendly get-togethers to feats of strength and martial arts demonstrations.

Much of his work serves as a glimpse into Southern Colorado’s past, showing landmarks like the Royal Gorge and Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve.

Story continues below

The exhibit, which can be seen online at pueblolibrary.org/muramotoexhibit, showcases his impressive body of work, from personal family photographs to professional studio portraits.

Muramoto was also an avid user of early home-movie cameras. The exhibit features seven 16mm film reels shot by Muramoto, showing scenes throughout Pueblo and Colorado, including rides at the Colorado State Fair and what was then a newly constructed exhibit, “Monkey Mountain,” at the Pueblo Zoo.

MORE: Pueblo City-County Library District earns five star award from national publication

The library district was able to digitize Muramoto's original film strips through a grant from the [National Film Preservation Foundation](#), and the films are featured in the exhibit.

“The films have these intertitle cards that (Muramoto) created and then filmed. So kind of like you'd see in the silent movies where they have an explanation of the following scene,” Ramirez said.

“He created those and put them in between his home movies ... and then not only is it in English, it's also in Japanese text. And that was something that the National Preservation Film Foundation people had never seen before.”

Ramirez said Muramoto produced color films in the late 1930s that serve “as an example of early consumer color-film footage.”

The exhibit also examines the migration of Japanese immigrants into the United States and Pueblo.

Ramirez said the exhibit will be featured online indefinitely and noted the library district has obtained some of Muramoto's portrait work and is developing a future exhibit.

“We're planning on creating a physical exhibit of those portraits that really showcases the diverse subjects,” Ramirez said.

“It shows newlyweds, children doing their confirmations, baptisms and families getting that special family photo there in his studio. So that should be coming later this year, closer to summer.”

MORE: Claws and effect: Pueblo animal shelter reports less intakes, more adoptions in 2020

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