
Press and Publicity Report

A P R I L 2 0 2 3



El Pueblo History Museum is opening a new exhibit at the end of the month featuring photographs from a Japanese immigrant who lived in Pueblo for decades.

Here are five things to know about the artist and upcoming exhibit.

Meet the featured

artist, Frank Muramoto

Frank "Duke" Denichi Muramoto was born in Japan and lived in Pueblo from 1912 until he died in 1958.

Muramoto owned and operated the De Luxe photo studio in Bessemer. Most of Pueblo's Japanese community in the early 1900s, which numbered approximately 400 in 1907, lived in Bessemer, according to a virtual exhibit about Muramoto on display through the Pueblo City-County Library District.

Why Muramoto's

photography is unique

Muramoto took portraits professionally, but also took photos on vacations and candid shots of friends and family.

His photographs were taken at a time before cameras were widespread and equipment was clunky, said Devin Flores, a digital content specialist for History Colorado.

"It's pretty atypical to see so many candid photographs, and things like his nature photography, especially because he was not professionally a nature photographer," Flores said. "In his spare time, he was carrying very heavy camera equipment with him on hikes and on vacation all over Colorado. It definitely is not the typical story."

Muramoto kept up with the evolving technology of cameras and experimented with new techniques and color film before it was widely used. The collection includes some color film footage — no stills — from the 1930s.

Big Hollywood studios started producing films in color, most notably with the release of the Wizard of Oz in 1939, but the cost was so high that color film did not become the norm for movies until the 1960s, Flores said.

What happened with

Japanese internment

In the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, most Japanese-Americans were forced to move to internment camps.

Muramoto was exempt from the order, according to the virtual library exhibit. Colorado's governor at the time, Ralph Carr, opposed Japanese internment, but also was criticized for supporting hosting a Japanese internment camp in Colorado: a camp was opened near the town of Grenada at what is now the Amache National Historic Site.

Why is this exhibit opening now?

The library district previously featured Muramoto's recently digitized video in an online exhibit that debuted in 2021. The library's work to digitize Muramoto's films, which feature unique text cards interspersed through the footage, was supported by a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation.

"This exhibition is a chance to explore an untold story of immigration to Colorado," Flores said in a news release. "Through Muramoto's lens, the audience gets a unique perspective on the diverse people, communities, cultures, and landscapes of southern Colorado, as seen by a first-generation immigrant."

The exhibit captures the lives of Pueblo's Japanese and East Asian immigrant community, Flores told the Chieftain.

"There was a very strong and surprisingly large community of not just Japanese, but other East Asian immigrants in southern Colorado at this time period, and while there are still remnants of that community, they are harder and harder to find every year, simply because a lot of them moved out of Pueblo," Flores said.

How to see the exhibit

The exhibit opens April 29 in the free gallery at the El Pueblo History Museum. A variety of Muramoto's work will be on display, including portraits of himself, his family and his community.

A selection of Muramoto's films will be on display at the museum, as well as an oral history with the artist's grandson, Dave Muramoto.

The exhibition will continue until late July, Flores said.

El Pueblo History Museum is located at 301 N. Union Ave. and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The Muramoto exhibit is in the free community gallery. Admission to the rest of the museum's exhibits is free for youth 18 and under, \$7 for adults and \$5 for seniors over the age of 60, as well as veterans.

Anna Lynn Winfrey is a reporter at the Pueblo Chieftain. She can be reached at awinfrey@gannett.com or on Twitter, [@annalynnfrey](https://twitter.com/annalynnfrey).

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Pueblo library district adds air sensors at - Pueblo Chieftain, The (CO) - April 18, 2023 - page A1
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The Pueblo City-County Library District has installed environmental sensors in bathrooms at Barkman Library after discovering methamphetamine residue in those areas earlier this year.

The sensors from Verkada, a security equipment company, can detect changes in air quality, along with smoke and aerosol discharge. If any of those particles or a difference in air quality is detected by the sensors, library staff will be notified and it will trigger cameras located outside of the bathrooms to snap an image of the person leaving the bathroom following that detection.

Sherri Baca, executive director for PCCLD, said the new equipment, which was installed last week, is expected to help library staff identify anyone who violates library policy by using drugs in the bathrooms. It is also another safety measure in response to the methamphetamine contamination that forced the Barkman branch to temporarily close in February.

"We do take the public's safety very seriously," said Ann Boyden, the marketing, communications and design manager for PCCLD. "We want to do as much as we can to ensure that."

Test screenings prior to the remediation efforts showed meth residue above the threshold Colorado uses to determine whether a space is contaminated with that substance. There was an uptick in reports at that time from library staff detailing drug use within the men's and women's bathrooms at the Barkman branch.

The library district then began remediation efforts to remove that residue and reopened the branch on March 6.

Baca and other PCCLD staff are expected to discuss the new equipment and other safety measures they've introduced in response to the contamination during a community forum at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Barkman Library, 1300 Jerry Murphy Road.

"I want folks to understand that our library buildings are safe and we are monitoring them carefully," Baca said. "We will act accordingly when there's a necessity."

PCCLD last week announced it suspended 10 people between October 2022 and February 2023 because of drug use within the Barkman branch. Two others during that time were suspended from Patrick A. Lucero Library for similar reasons.

Those suspensions were delivered on a "case-by-case" basis but are not lifetime bans, Baca said. The timeline for each of them is different and is based on a matrix the library district follows.

"Our goal is to keep people in the library," Baca said. "Sometimes people just need to be reminded of what the expectations are, and more often than not they can abide by those."

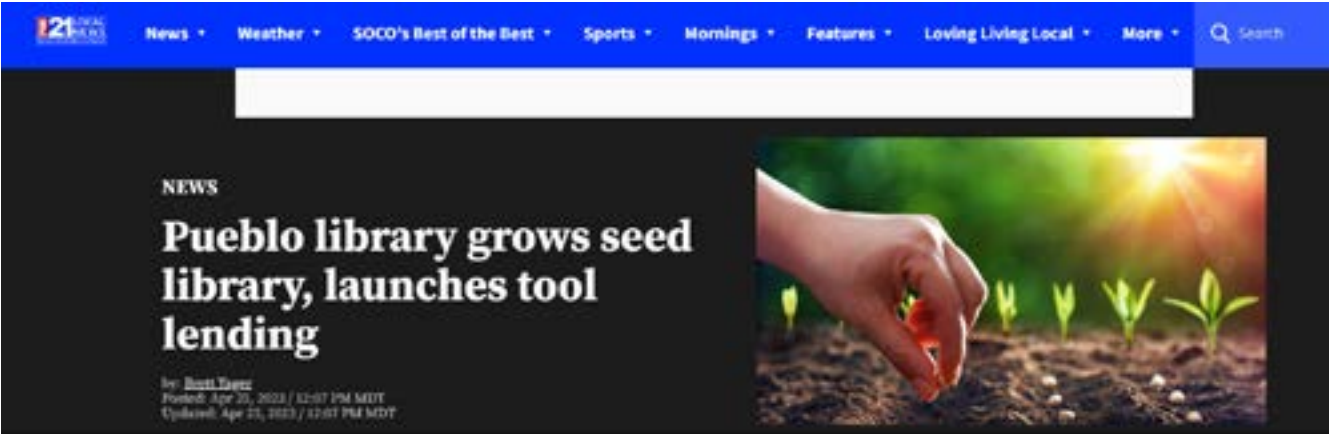
Because PCCLD is operating under an evidence-based approach, there are no plans at this time to install similar environmental sensors or cameras at other branches, Baca said. The library district has increased its security presence at Barkman, however, and staff continue to monitor bathroom use at the branch, the district wrote in a news release.

At least one other library district in Colorado has installed of environmental sensors: Pikes Peak Library District, which has branches in Colorado Springs, Fountain and Monument, installed them in each of its restrooms across 16 libraries after it closed its Penrose branch because of meth contamination, according to Chieftain news partner KRDO News Channel 13.

To learn more about Pueblo City-County Library District or to ask questions, visit pueblolibrary.org or send them to pueblolibrary.org/AskUs.

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(PUEBLO, Colo.) — The Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) has expanded its seed library and those with a valid PCCLD library card can now check out seeds at six locations and can borrow gardening tools from the Tool Library.

In 2015 Rawlings Library began offering seed checkouts, now seeds can be checked out at six PCCLD locations:

Giodone Branch Library, 24655 U.S. Highway 50 East
 Greenhorn Valley Branch, 4801 Cibola Drive, Colorado City
 Lamb Branch Library, 2525 South Pueblo Boulevard
 Patrick A. Lucero Branch Library, 1315 East 7th Street
 Pueblo West Branch Library, 298 South Joe Martinez Boulevard
 Rawlings Branch Library, 100 East Abriendo Avenue

"These new programs bring access to resources and learning which expand what the public library already offers. Our team is very excited to begin hosting the tool-lending program and also to expand the Seed Library," Sherri Baca Library Executive Director said.

Up to five packets of seeds can be checked out at a time and while they have no due date, users are encouraged to harvest the seeds at the end of the growing season, returning them to a Seed Library location.

Library patrons also now have access to gardening tools. Available only at Rawlings Library, up to five tools may be checked out at a time with a valid PCCLD library card. Borrowers must be 18 years or older and are required to sign a waiver. Items have a seven-day checkout limit and no renewals. Tools

must be returned to Rawlings Library and cleaned of soil and debris.

Tool Library items include:

Shovels
 Hoes
 Pruners
 Rakes
 Hand trowels
 Cultivators
 A garden cart

Monthly classes hosted by the Colorado Master Gardeners take place from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the last Saturday of the month at Rawlings Library

The Seed Library is a collaboration between All Pueblo Grows, Colorado Master Gardeners of Pueblo County, CSU Extension-Pueblo County, and PCCLD. The Tool Library is in partnership with the Pueblo Food Project.



Top Stories

By KRDO News

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Pueblo City-County Library District expands gardening program to six locations

PUEBLO, Colo. (KRDO) -- The Pueblo City-County Library District expanded its Seed Library, a program that allows people to check out seed packets and gardening tools.

The Seed Library is now available at six public library locations and is free with a valid PCCLD library card. The program offers varieties of flowering plants, garden vegetables, and more.

"These new programs bring access to resources and learning which expand what the public library already offers. Our team is very excited to begin hosting the tool-lending program and also to expand the Seed Library," Sherri Baca library executive director said in a press release.

Up to five packets of seeds can be checked out at a time. While they have no due date, users are encouraged to harvest the seeds at the end of the growing season and return them to a Seed Library location.

"The Extension office is excited to be able to reach more residents of Pueblo County with this seed library expansion. These seeds will allow families to grow their own food and flowers, and provide them with the knowledge and support to take them through the growing season with our monthly class series at the Rawlings branch," Sherie Shaffer, director of the CSU Extension-Pueblo County said in a press release.

People can see the different types of seeds in [PCCLD online catalog here](#).

The Seed Library locations are:

- Glodone Branch Library, 24655 U.S. Hwy. 50 E.
- Greenhorn Valley Branch, 4801 Cibola Drive, Colorado City
- Lamb Branch Library, 2525 S. Pueblo Blvd.
- Patrick A. Lucero Branch Library, 1315 E. 7th St.
- Pueblo West Branch Library, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd.
- Rawlings Branch Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave.

The Tool Library items include:

- Shovels
- Hoes
- Pruners
- Rakes
- Hand trowels
- Cultivators
- A garden cart

These are available only at Rawlings Library. Up to five tools can be checked out at a time with a valid PCCLD library card. Borrowers must be 18 years or older and are required to sign a waiver.

Items have a seven-day checkout limit without renewals. The tools must be returned to Rawlings Library and need to be cleaned of soil and debris.

The Colorado Master Gardeners are also offering monthly classes on the last Saturday of the month at the Rawlings Library from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. The free workshops will cover a different topic each month.

The April 29 workshop is on starting seeds indoors and takes place in the Friends of the Library meeting room on the first floor.

The Seed Library project is a partnership between All Pueblo Grows, Colorado Master Gardeners of Pueblo County, CSU Extension-Pueblo County, and PCCLD.

PCCLD first began offering seed checkouts in 2015 at Rawlings Library.

Cool beans: Pueblo library district expands Seed Library, launches tool-lending program

Move over books! The Pueblo library district also has seeds and gardening tools on the shelves

 By Shanna Lewis
Yesterday, 3:17 pm



Pueblo City-County Library District
Pueblo Seed Library patron Michelle Vigil selects seeds from the collection at the Rawlings Library.

Shovels, rakes and other tools are now available for gardeners to borrow from the Rawlings Library in Pueblo as the district expands its seed lending program.

Double sweet corn, scarlet radish and pink penstemon are among the dozens of choices in the library’s on-line seed catalog. Library card holders can check out up to five packets at a time from any one of six branches and are encouraged to save seeds from their harvest to return to the collection.

Tools — available only from Rawlings — can be reserved online too,

but borrowers must be over 18 and sign a waiver. Users must return the equipment clean within seven days. The Pueblo Food Project is collaborating on the tool library.

Along with lending tools, the library is offering monthly gardening workshops taught by Colorado Master Gardeners and CSU Extension-Pueblo County. Those begin this weekend, April 29, with a session on starting seeds.

The seed library project began in 2015 and is aimed at helping residents grow their own food and flowers and protecting the region’s plant

diversity.

Pueblo City-County Library District Seed Library locations include:

Giodone Branch Library, 24655 U.S. Hwy. 50 E.
Greenhorn Valley Branch, 4801 Cibola Drive, Colorado City
Lamb Branch Library, 2525 S. Pueblo Blvd.
Patrick A. Lucero Branch Library, 1315 E. 7th St.
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