

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

Report of the Executive Director – AUGUST

Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees

September 26, 2024

Executive Director

Property Tax Update—Post 2024 Special Legislative Session—We find ourselves in new territory again regarding property tax in Colorado. Not only was SB24-233 passed in regular legislative session to reduce property tax, but also HB24B-1001 was passed in special legislative session. We are analyzing both bills (and past property tax legislation) to determine what their provisions are and how they impact PCCLD. There are a number of layers to this analysis—there are exemptions to properties before their assessed valuation is calculated, there are drops to the assessment rates for residential and non-residential properties, there is a decoupling of schools for property tax calculations, there is a two-year cap on the revenue generated by a taxing entity, and there are opportunities for the library trustee board to make a number of decisions. As we typically do, our team will work hard to determine how the bills impact the library and insert the most conservative and reliable approach to our finances in our budget and long-term financial projection.

Barkman Library

August has seen the end of the Barkman Summer Reading programing in the Belmont Park and a refocus towards re-entry into the newly renovated Barkman Branch Library building. The Barkman staff were currently working at different locations within the Rawlings Library and co-creating programs with other staff from different branches around the district. We focused on providing ending dates for the managers in the departments that the Barkman staff were working to provide a smooth transition for all staff and management.

The staff were not able to transition into the new building until August 26th. Three new staff members were added to the Barkman team at this time. Penny Jerman, joined the team earlier as the Program and Outreach Specialist, Ingrid Fedge become the new part time Customer Service Representative, and Estela Mungaray became the new full time Customer Service Representative. The Pueblo Elections office came to the site and installed a long awaited permanent drop box for the community voters. This multiyear long project was approved just before the renovation started and so we needed to wait another year before installation.

During the week of August 26th, the entire Barkman staff met for the first time and had the very first full staff meeting. The rest of the week was then focused on ensure the material collection was prepped and ready, boxes were unpacked, and the library was ready for a quiet opening to the public scheduled for September 3rd.

Giodone Library

August is a month of transition away from summer and towards our school year type schedule. We see that many of the families that visited during the day are switching to visiting after school hours. We take a break from our Summer Reading program schedule and move to what typically works during the school year.

We serve many different families in our community, and we are proud of the services we offer them. One service, many do not realize we offer, is being a neutral location for families to participate in supervised visits. We have several foster families that utilize the Giodone Library as a place to meet caseworkers, and to visit

family. The youth area with toys, computers, and video game system offer something for the whole family to engage in, while the study rooms offer a private place to discuss more private matters.

Of course, our programming is very popular with our patrons. I would like to share a few kind comments we received regarding our tween/teen programming.

Norma, who brings her granddaughters, said that Giodone "has the most interesting crafts and events," and mentioned that the girls have their hobbit doors that they made here on their walls in their rooms. She likes coming back here as their home library, and that we do the most events for their age group (elementary).

Sierra came in with her two children, one a tween and the other a newly minted tween, said the events at Giodone were different and wider ranging than other offerings.

Greenhorn Valley Library

Circulation Total Checkouts: 2,031

All DVDs and BluRays: 1,059

Books: 675

Boardbooks & Picture Books: 172

Magazine: 36

Graphic Novels: 34

Audiobooks: 22

Read Along Talking Books: 12

ILL-Book: 6

Seed Packets: 5

Local Collection: 4

Laptop/Tablet: 2

Music on CD: 2

Hot Spot: 1

Sports & Outdoor Equipment: 1

Community Passes: 1

Circulation Total Check-ins: 2,069

Total Library Visits: 4,264

Week of August 4: 1,064

Week of August 11: 1,064

Week of August 18: 999

Week of August 25: 1,137

Total Number of Digital Uses: 143

Program Attendance Total: 478

Yoga with Ashley 127

Books at Meals on Wheels Lunch Outreach 90

Outreach @ Pueblo Zoo 52

Family Friday 42

Saturday Night Magic 30

Video Games 23

Music and Movement Storytime 28

Smokey Bear's Birthday 20

Greenhorn Valley Book Club 16
Tie Dye: Back to School Edition 16
Sip N' Stroke 14
DMV2GO 13
Digital Memory Lab 6
Yarn Birds 1

Number of Faxes: 6

OUTREACH

Pueblo Zoo Camp Programs 50
Meals on Wheels Lunches 90
Rye Town Square Fair 800

Lucero Library

Youth Programming

- **Youth passive programs:**
 - Coloring table: 15
 - Take and Make Kits: 30
 - Game system (XBox/Switch): 30

Outreach

- Tina went to the EastSide Child Care Center for a storytime every Thursday
 - 5 storytimes; 75 participants
- Backpack giveaway for Servicios de la Raza at Steel City Eagles o August 16th 2024
 - Tina and Jessica attended along with Rawlings staff member Kathy Kearney. We handed out books to families, scratch art bookmarks and library information via marketing items
 - Number of participants 230
- CSU-P Student Employment/Involvement Fair
 - Jessica assisted in an outreach fair with Lev Frank and Jen Scroggins
 - Number of participants 222
- School outreach
 - On August 21st, Jerry and Tina went to all of the local schools to conduct outreach and see if they were interested in library-provided storytimes or activities at their locations. We also let them know of our closing for a renovation and where they can find us during it
 - Eva Baca Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Fountain International Magnet School, Bradford Elementary and Risley International Academy of Innovation Middle School

Special Projects and Highlights

- In anticipation of closing our library, we gave out popsicles and ice cream to celebrate the Lucero Library until our closure on August 3rd
 - 40 patrons served
 - Some quotes from people we heard were:
 - "We love this library because it feels like home"
 - "We love coming to this library, you guys are great"
 - "We are excited for the change"
 - "Thank you guys for doing what you have done for my kiddos, we are going to miss yo

Lamb Library, Library @ the Y, Beulah Library

PROGRAMS

- Storytimes – 148 (LB) 81 (L@Y)
- Youth Programs – 103 (LB)
- Teen/Tween Programs – 29 (LB)
- Adult Programs - 156 (LB)
- Passive/Kits2Go Programs – 50 kits2go/85 passives

OUTREACH

Haven Dance Outreach at Pueblo Mall - August 17th - 200 attendees (Alva hosted a library table)

Pueblo HSPPR Outreach event - August 8th - 16 attendees (Cynthia hosted a screen-printing session).

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Lamb hosted a back-to-school scavenger hunt that had over 40 participants. Cynthia and Alva worked on planning for All Pueblo Reads and we continue to seek out more outreach opportunities and partnerships. Lovely and Marissa are currently working on starting a new virtual program, in the form of a podcast called "Check it Out."

DISPLAYS OR EXHIBITS

Lamb did not have a local artist scheduled for August, so we decided to work on a collaborative wall display, called the "Wall of Quotes." It included everyone's favorite book quotes and even led to some hold requests!

ADDITIONAL DATA (as applicable)

- Circulation - 9936 (LB), 1358 (L@Y), 90 (Beulah)
- Library Visits - 6257 (LB), 1486 (L@Y), 29 (Beulah)
- Digital Use - 1579 (LB), 264 (L@Y)
- Meeting Room Use - 19
- Study Room Use - 22
- Notary Appointments - 11
- Volunteer hours - 5.75

HIGHLIGHTS FROM STAFF DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, MEETINGS

Crystal and Mary attended the annual planning retreat - 8/29/24

Crystal attended the first CALLI session in Basalt, CO - 8/26 to 8/27.

Pueblo West Library

Community Display Cases

Pueblo West Women's League Membership Drive Display
LGBTQ+ History Display

Art Exhibits, Estimated Attendance 612

Debbie Phillips acrylic paintings and photographs

Pueblo West Library held a total of 105 programs, outreaches, club meetings, technology training, and Kits2Go with a total attendance of 2497

Program Highlights

Fire & Ice End of Summer Party 8/3/24

Families explored a fire truck and learned about fire safety from the Pueblo West Firefighters. After the firefighter presentation, they enjoyed free snow cones and a water fight in the park! The children spent a delightful hour spraying each other with water and splashing in the small pools. Several parents expressed to me how grateful they were for the free children's programs during the summer.

Pride Flower Crowns 8/8/24

Patrons created beautiful flower crowns to wear at Pueblo Pride. Adults and kids all enjoyed this fun and easy craft. The parents were thankful for a fun and inclusive craft. They noted that they were excited that the Library was offering Pride programs.

Adult Craft: Beaded Wind Chimes 8/28/24

A crowd showed up to create Beaded Wind Chimes. Everyone enjoyed this fun and colorful craft. Patrons showed uniqueness and creativity in their different designs. There were lively conversations and some new faces!

Adult Craft: Painted Wooden Spoons 8/7/24

For the Adult Craft on August 7, we painted wooden spoons! Attendees enjoyed the program and got very artistic and creative. Some of the final pieces included snowmen, Frankenstein, a Faberge egg, and flowers.

Tech Services

DIRECTOR

- Jill Kleven organized the Corporate Cup competition for the library. An all-time high of 65 employees are competing in this year's events taking place in September.
- Elizabeth Flores, Jill, and various librarians worked on eleven requests for reconsideration brought forth by patrons. Most titles were LGBTQIA+ content. The titles were:
 - Out of the Blue
 - At Thirty I Realized I Had No Gender
 - This Book is Gay
 - I am not a Girl
 - Unpregnant
 - It's Perfectly Normal
 - Mommy
 - Juliet Takes a Breath
 - Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up with Me
 - Beyond the Gender Binary
 - Social Intercourse

The Committee's recommendations were brought to the Executive Director to make the final determination.

- Jill worked with Bibliotheca to get the AMH, self-checks, and gates working at Barkman before the opening.
- Jill presented at the Annual Retreat on Intellectual Freedom.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

- Danielle Cowles launched the electronic newspapers iPad project at all locations. Each iPad is set up with multiple local and national newspapers through apps and a web browser. The iPads can be checked out for two hours within the library.
- Pat Mascarenas and Danielle worked on launching a holiday dvd collection at Lamb. This will be a pilot over the next four months of the holiday season. Based on the checkouts, it may expand to be district wide.
- Elizabeth worked with Alyssa Vargas-Lopez to launch the Urban Fiction collection districtwide.
- Elizabeth created lists of materials from Lucero to take to the temporary location of El Centro.

CATALOGING

- Peggy Bilger and Adina Vega worked with Desi Anderson to catalog the Lamb Library of Things. This game and hobby collection is set to launch October 1st.
- Peggy and the catalogers continued to work on moving our cataloging over to OCLC away from our print vendors.

Local History & Genealogy

PROGRAMS

TOTAL PROGRAM ATTENDANCE: 26

Storytimes - Attendance: 14

Adult Programs - Attendance: 12

OUTREACH

Blake, Tabitha, and Aaron attended John Korber's funeral. Tabitha made connections with the family and hosted them in the department, the day after the funeral. They were glad to see Korber's work being cared for. More of Korber's binders/work will make it into the Department when they are ready.

SPECIAL PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Aaron met Diane Baublits at the Rawlings Museum in Las Animas. Aaron received a box of materials relevant to rock art.

Aaron met with State of Colorado colleagues regarding Shared Memories.

ADDITIONAL DATA

- **Circulation**
WR Ref-books: 19
REF-Maps: 0

GEN books: 22
SC-Loan: 11 checked out, 36 in-house uses
Microfilm used: 167
Obit Requests Completed: 120
Ask Us request completed: 2
Article requests completed: 1
Photo files used: 22
Archival boxes used: 2
Vertical Files used: 8

Digital Use and Collections

Colorado Historic Newspaper Collection

Colorado Weekly Chieftain:

page views: 469
Users: 88
Sessions: 23

Colorado Daily Chieftain:

page views: 3,716
Users: 440
Sessions: 219

Ancestry Library Edition All Databases Searches Run: 2473

Ancestry Library Edition All Sessions Run: no data

Heritage Quest All Searches Run: 67

Heritage Quest All Sessions Run: 7

Fold3 Library Edition searches: 128

Fold 3 Library edition sessions: 54

ArchivesSpace

Users: 124
Sessions: 139
Pageviews: 471

CONTENTdm items: 11,611

Users: 369
New Users: 355
Sessions: 491
Pageviews: 3,200

Experiential Learning

Makerspace program highlights:

- Ukulele Choir: Claire is back from vacation and hosted twice with excellent attendance
- Sharon Needle Felts: multiple new students this time around so we revisited how felting works and created flat cookie cutter projects
- Collaborative Drawing: 16

Catie Blickhahn is our new Makerspace Educator and is learning the ins and outs of the makerspace. We are organizing and purchasing new supplies and are excited to launch a new programming model in October!

Community Member Programs in Makerspace

- Southern Colorado Equity Alliance

- Self-Care Group

Open hours: Every Friday and Saturday from 11-2pm- 156 participants this month

Museum Services:

Exhibits

Misti Hughes: Pueblo Energy: 8/1-8/12 -

Misti is a local artist who is passionate about creating positive impact with the community through communal art.

Idea Con: Artist Alley: 8/16-8/31 -

This exhibit, open for public entry, highlighted the Pueblo community's love for fandom. This went up in conjunction with Idea Con.

Programs

Artist Alley Reception 8/17 - 80 in attendance

Volunteers

1 continuing, 1 on boarded

Total hours: 26.25

ELD Programs and Partnerships:

We collaborated with the entire district to host IdeaCon this year. We had a lovely event this year, with around 800 people attending. We had 18 vendors, 2 local authors, and many community partners to include the Pueblo Zoo, Rocky Mountain Morale Missions, Game Knight Games, and the Society for Creative Anachronism. Our vendors and authors had very successful days and the highlight of the day continues to be our cosplay contest. We are thrilled to be able to continue this event and look forward to next year!!

Concierge Services and Meeting Rooms:

We had 172 room reservations this month. We promoted the State Fair in partnership with Local History and Genealogy on the first floor and celebrated IdeaCon with our displays!

User Services

Youth Programming

Tween Programming

Pictured are several tweens who regularly attended tween weekly programs during the school year. Typically, getting youth back into the school year schedule after summer programming takes a few weeks but these tweens and their families prioritized incorporating the library early this year.

Teen Programming

Our regulars continue to attend teen programming as school has started, aside from when they have been sick. One regular attendee got a job, which keeps him from our library hangouts, but not from spending time elsewhere with friends made here. We also have some new regular attendees: one a school friend of a long-time regular, which is exciting, and a new sister-brother duo, whose sibling quibbling is often a source of entertainment to everyone else.

The teen librarian continues to work in service of the committee that hosts **Youth Kickbacks** (ages 13-20), monthly events at various locations around town that offer young folks space to sing karaoke, do art, and play games, along with calm and comfort rooms, which are staffed by mental health professionals. These kickbacks are facilitated with the aim of offering safe spaces for Pueblo's young adults to socialize, as well as to have access to mental health professionals should they need their help. Our committee grew organically from the recognition of community needs directly following a teen suicide – particularly the needs of that lost teen's friends and family.

Community Partnership in Ryals Grand Event Space

Youth Services, Jacque Carter, partnered with ***Haven School of Dance*** for a dance recital in Ryals. There were two separate performances that showcased a variety of dance types and also a reading of "Groovy Joe, Ice Cream & Dinosaurs" by Jacque. Once the story was finished Bluey came out for a surprise visit! All were allowed to have their photo taken afterwards and a food truck, Rock Ya Belly, was available during the lunch break. About 800 people attended throughout the day!

Adult Programming

New Partnerships:

The Reference Librarian collaborated with the ***Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment***, to host a Grant Writing workshop for local volunteers. The collaboration was facilitated through the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Brad Roberts and Shylo Dennison, Director of Community Engagement, Prevention and Response. Jennifer presented PCCLD materials and resources about nonprofit's and grant writing, including sharing information about the Doris Kester Nonprofit Collection

Program and Outreach Specialist, Thad Stelter, has started a new partnership with the ***Center towards Self-Reliance***. Specifically helping vision impaired users with technology needs. He will also be receiving aid from the Center towards Self-Reliance to gain a better understanding of what we offer on our ADA Computer.

Outreach and Community Partnerships:

A highlight was the ***CSU-P*** outreach event, where we spoke to 225 attendees and engaged with 8 potential partners. The CSU outreach was in collaboration with Adult Services and Jessica Blaha of Lucero Library (Pictured to the left in the photo).

On August 16th Kathy Kearney from Rawlings Adult Services partnered with Jessica Blaha and Tina Martins-Gonzalez for the ***Servicios de la Raza Backpack Giveaway*** where we interacted with 230 participants. We gave away books donated by Books *Again* to children, tweens, and teens. In addition, we offered an engaging art activity.

Every month Kathy Kearney brings library information to the ***Helping Hands*** outreach for Veterans and their families. In August this event served 352 people.

On August 10th, the Library participated in the ***Neighborhood Safety Day*** outreach event at the Pueblo Riverwalk.

Programs

On August 16th, ***To Dye For*** was held in the Youth Program Room. It has become a great, multi-generational program. Participants of all ages have come together to learn how to tie-dye! We tie dyed handkerchiefs. Everyone was able to dye a couple kerchiefs and some participants brought shirts!

Lev Frank, the ***Adult Literacy*** Administrator, facilitated 14+ referrals to community resources, registered 3 new learners, on boarded 1 new tutor, matched 1 tutor with a learner, awarded 2 scholarships for the COHS program, and held 2 information sessions for community members to learn more about the Adult Literacy Program. Lev initiated and advanced the "Find Your Fit" resource fair, collaborated with CSU-P for college credit in COHS, launched an Adult Storytime program with The Learning Source and Pueblo Regional Center, and explored a partnership with the Pueblo Housing Authority.

Library To You matches volunteers with customers who are unable to visit the library because of limited accessibility. Forty-nine individuals are registered for this service. Twelve volunteers are part of the program. In August, volunteers checked out items 16 times.

Celebrations and Thank Yous from Patrons:

“Thank you so much Kathy! Thank you for being so generous and inviting. I feel so welcomed and creative in your Maker Space. Here are my before and after Shrinky Dink projects. Pink Floyd album covers and my favorite classic artists”.

Facilities

Work Order Statistics

- 335 work orders completed.
- 39 custodial work orders completed.

Rawlings

- Repaired roof leaks.
- Installed railing by water feature.

Barkman

- Completed Barkman refresh.

Giodone

- Repaired tool shed.

Lucero

- Removed furnishings, books and materials from building for renovation.

Pueblo West

- Repaired roof leaks.

Other duties/projects

- Completed Books in the Park.
- Setup El Centro del Quinto Sol as temporary library facility.
- Cleaned out Books Again storage room.
- Setup for Corporate Cup at the YMCA.
- Cleaned up properties from a windstorm.

Volunteer Hours

PCCLD Volunteer estimated hours for the month of August

ADULTS	187.70 HOURS
TEENS	35.50 HOURS
BOOKS AGAIN	1512.25 HOURS
BOD TRUSTEES	20.00 HOURS
TOTAL HOURS	1755.45
VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS	\$55,823.31

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Baca
Executive Director