

**PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**Report of the Executive Director – September**  
**Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees**  
**October 24, 2024**

## **Barkman Library**

The Barkman Library quietly opened to the public on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by a week of celebrations that started with the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on the 10<sup>th</sup>. The soft opening was a flurry of establishing, re-arranging, fixing, and organizing many of the little things in need of placement and categorizing as all building moves require.

Many events, all coordinated by the Community Relations Departments very hard work, took place during the week of September 9<sup>th</sup>. The most memorable, "Meet Bluey and Bingo" was not only highly attended but also the most joyfully overwhelming. Though it threatened to rain, and did sprinkle, over a thousand people from the community came out to not only see Bluey and Bingo characters, but also visited with the Fire and Police department. Both departments were able to show off their shiny fire engine and SWAT team vehicles respectively.

Over the course of September, many of our patrons from our pre-renovation have reestablished their favorite places in the library. The Makerspace area is often filled right away in the morning with our "regulars." This is possibly due to the wonderful rolling chairs, or, it is just closer to the door. We have seen many new faces as well. New teens, new adults, and some of our retirees from the Pueblo Villa across the street have ventured in and we have received many wonderful compliments on our new construction.

The staff's two favorite areas is our new enclosed children's space and Maker/Teen zone. These two spaces, so badly needed, have been discovered over the month by our families and tweens. The Switch is often used and we have seen a large increase of family attendance in our new children's room. We hope to see visits and program attendance increase to pre-pandemic and renovation levels.

## **Giodone Library**

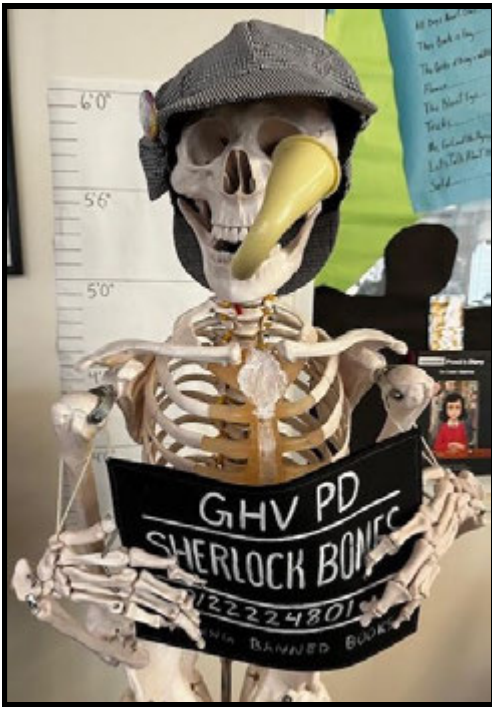
September is Hispanic Heritage month, and Banned Books Week, and we celebrated both with our displays and programming. We collaborated with the Adult Literacy Coordinator to showcase community resources at our "Find Your Fit" Resource buffet where people were matched up with resources to help them reach their goals. We conducted several outreach events including two pre-school storytimes, afterschool crafts at Avondale Elementary, and the ribbon cutting for the outdoor pavilion at McHarg Park.

In conclusion, I would like to share some positive feedback from Shirley Stice the Coordinator of Pueblo Community Resources who called in to say how much they appreciate the weekly programs. They love all the great activities that are planned each week and appreciate how kind and helpful all the staff is. She said the Chile Peppers from this past Tuesday were really fun to make and very cute.

## **Greenhorn Valley Library**

A book club participant, and long-time patron, told the book club about a recent experience. After many years of listening to books on CD and play aways, she decided to take the plunge, and ask for directions to download Libby, Hoopla and the Cloud Library on her smartphone. She was pleased to tell the others that she now has a consistent source of audio books.

Ashley visited both the Middle School and the High School this month. There were activities, handouts and prizes. Library resources and programs were promoted.



**picture of skeleton banned books mug shot**

## Lucero Library

### **Youth Programming**

#### **Chris: D60 Nutrition Program. 60 kids**

- Building up the D60 nutrition program. We are now seeing more kids come in for meals and programs.
- Scratch art was fun and kids did amazing using the scratch art to create pictures
- Sketch art on canvas. The kids made special art projects on canvas for the mom and dads. Rodrigo made several for his dad because it was his birthday.
- Color wood ornaments. The kids colored wood ornaments with a space theme.
- Orbeez fun. The kids played with orbeez by massaging their hands and had fun popping them and bouncing around the room.
- Tea light planets. We had a couple of kids paint ping pong balls and put them on tea lights to make planets

### **Adult Programming**

This month our lovely Crafty Crew members came to our classes with excitement. Most of them had comments about missing our programs plus the community we have created and embraced the temporary change of location.

### **Outreach**

- Chris has run into a lot of patrons of the Lucero Library and has been letting them know about our current renovation and move to El Centro Del Quinto Sol
- Books a la Cart
  - Valarie and Chris Rivera delivered books on the first Tuesday of this month. They added the East Side Child Care Center to their list of locations

- Sharing El Centro Details
  - Risley Innovation Middle School and Bradford Elementary
    - Tina talked to both administrative staffs and found a mode of communication to share information with Bradford Families and successfully shared information with Risley students in an announcement about the move to El Centro and program times and dates.
- Southwest Spice Blend Class
  - This class was a collaboration between Jessica Blaha and Alyssa Vargas Lopez to promote an art exhibit at the Rawlings Library plus the Spice Library. Patrons loved the class and enjoyed sampling the spice blend that they got to take home with them.
  - Quote from numerous participants: "Wow, I had no idea the library district had a Spice Library. I will be coming by to check it out."

### **Storytimes**

- East Side Child Care Center
  - Tina has been asked to facilitate storytimes now at the Center. Class ages range from 2 and a half to the 4 year olds. Since starting with the new classes at the beginning of the month, when Tina asks "what lives at the library?", the kids now respond, "books! And puppets!". This has been a fantastic relationship built between the daycare and the Lucero Library.
- Eva Baca Elementary School
  - Tina facilitated the first storytime of the year with the new preschool students. They read a book around the theme of "Who You Are" and a fun polaroid picture activity. Ms. Amber enjoyed the interaction with her students and we will have bi-weekly storytime visits.
- Bradford Elementary School
  - Tina facilitated storytimes with 2 preschool classes and the 3-year-old class. This will be a monthly storytime visit

### **Special Projects and Highlights**

- With our move, we were unsure how many Lucero patrons would make their way to El Centro. We have gained new patrons and have been learning new faces. But, several familiar faces have followed us to 6th street. Little JJ (3rd grader); Adrian and Maisy (8th graders) ; Zeke and Michael (Freshman at East High School and 18 year old out of high school) as well as one of the regular mailman found us and came to say hello

## **Lamb Library, Library @ the Y, Beulah Library**

### **Program Highlights**

#### **•Toddler Story Time**

We started this month with a story time for Grandparents day where the participants decorated "hugs" that could be mailed to their grandparents. We also did storytimes about being a big sibling, umbrellas, and sharing.

#### **•Horror Cafe**

This month the book for the Horror Cafe was Mexican Gothic. We had 8 participants and a good discussion about the book. The participants are looking forward to finding out what books we will be reading next year and were delighted to get Horror Club themed shirts.



Horror Café Book Club

- APR-Themed Adult Craft

#### Taj Mahal Inspired Paper Lantern:

In this program, attendees engaged in an enriching cultural learning experience by watching a Kanopy video on India, which provided valuable insights into the country's rich history and the architectural marvel of the Taj Mahal. Following the video, participants had the opportunity to apply their knowledge by crafting their own onion dome paper lanterns.

### **Outreach Highlights**

- Campapalooza

This was our second year participating in this event hosted by The Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County. Alva brought the button maker and club members and members of the public rotated through the booth making buttons, picking up informational literature about the library, and learning about upcoming library events.



Campapalooza Outreach hosted by the Boys & Girls Club of Pueblo

#### Life Care Center Story Time

This is a regular outreach event for Lamb branch held once a month at Life Care Center of Pueblo. This month we had 8 participants and read some short stories from Terry Pratchett's *The Witch's Vacuum Cleaner*.

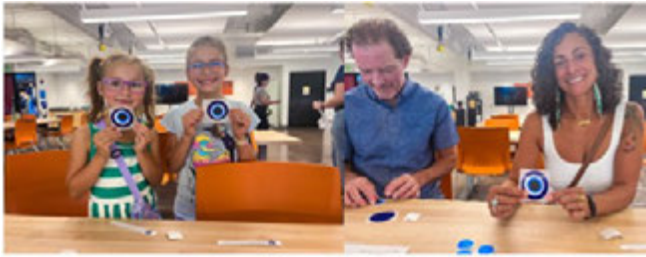
- Craft at the Regent

This was our first event at the Pueblo Holiday Regent. Alva brought supplies to decorate notebooks. In order to get more participation in the future we are working with the events coordinator to bring more awareness to our offerings. One way we are doing this is by attending a Halloween event held by them in October that

should be a good draw and help introduce people to the idea that the library will be regularly bringing activities.

### **Library Events**

- All Pueblo Reads Kickoff



Happy Crafters at the APR Kickoff!



Evil Eyes at the APR Kickoff!

### **Welcome Gio!!**

As the new programmer, Giovanna has been heavily focused on planning and promoting the Teen/Tween hangout program with kids and families coming into the library. She spent some time talking with the kids who attend regularly to find out what they would like to do in the coming months in order to plan more attention grabbing and exciting programs to boost her numbers. She has also taken over the YMCA story time program and has done an amazing job!

## **Pueblo West Library**

### **Program Highlights**

#### **Family Bingo September 9**

PW had a crowd for the centralized program Family Bingo. The kids were super excited to be able to play and win prizes! It was an exciting program and parents were interested in more Family Bingo in the future.



*Family Bingo Night*



### **Tween Hangout: Painting September 10**

Tween Hangout has been very popular the last few months. Especially when we have a craft or art. The Tweens were very excited to be able to use their imagination to create unique paintings.



*Tween Hangout Painting*

### **Adult Craft: Hobbit Wreaths September 25**

September the 22nd was National Hobbit Day to commemorate we created Hobbit Door Wreaths. Participants enjoyed getting to paint and decorate their doors anyway their hearts desired. We created gorgeous Hobbit Doors. This cozy craft was a crowd favorite.



*Hobbit Wreaths*

### **Chile Ristra Class September 20**

The Chile Ristra class on September 20th was a huge success! Attendees were able to assemble their own ristras using chiles from local Pueblo farms. While the project was a lot more challenging than anticipated, everyone had lots of fun and was very proud of their creations



*Chili Ristra Class*



*Woman holding chili ristra*

## Tech Services

### DIRECTOR:

- Jill Kleven presented at the Board of Trustees meeting the purchase of four new Bibliotheca self-checks for Rawlings. The existing six FE Technology self-checks will be allocated to Lamb and Pueblo West.
- Jill worked with Thomas DeFrates on learning about the upcoming eRate program for hotspots. An RFP will be issued in November.
- Corporate Cup activities took place over the course of three weeks in September. PCCLD had a record number of employees participate. The library won first place in Division 1.

### COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT:

- Elizabeth Flores and Jill handled another request for reconsideration for the book, Homo Thugs. The two copies were removed from circulation.
- Regular weeding reports are being generated by LibraryIQ and there is a weeding schedule. Lamb and Greenhorn weeded their collections this month.

### CATALOGING:

- The Lamb Library of Things Games and Hobbies have been cataloged and are now available for checkout at Lamb.
- The department continues to work on the OCLC cataloging project. There is only print vendor left to set workflows up with.

### ILS:

- There was an upgrade to the Aspen Discovery server that did cause some searching issues within the Discover catalog for a few days. Theia Bravo spent time troubleshooting the issues as well as preparing staff for the Koha upgrade taking place in early October.

## Local History & Genealogy

### PROGRAMS

9/10- Blake presented his Emulation Station program, in collaboration with Ciara Kehoe, as part of the Teen Hangout programs. The program highlights what emulation is, how it can be used in an archive to access obsolete computer files, and at the end, emulation was used to allow participants to play a vintage video game.

9/4 - Continued planning of Rawlings Tour bundles by meeting with LHG, ELD, and CR staff, and Kristi.

### OUTREACH

9/28 - LHG participated in the 2024 APR kickoff event. The department provided information about upcoming programs and services from LHG, general information, and provided a "find-India-on-the-map" activity which allowed participants to win a rubber duck left over from the Summer Reading kickoff event. QR codes linked to digital repositories holding South Asian, Indian, and Indian subcontinent collection materials. An estimated 50 people visited the table and spoke to Aaron about Department offerings.

9/28 - Joy Provided outreach at Genealogical Society of Hispanic America annual conference at CSU-Pueblo.

On September 6th, Maria provided a presentation on library outreach and services for Spanish speakers for CALCON.

## **SPECIAL PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, NEW PARTNERSHIPS**

9/24 - LHG hosted 2024 Colorado Book Award winner for anthologies, Peter Anderson to present on his work, Reading Colorado. Anderson pivoted when we saw that attendance was low, turning the format from a theater seated lecture to an intimate seminar class style experience, with all in attendance in a circle where participants shared their own stories and listened to Anderson speaking about the process of writing/compiling the book. He read from 5-6 excerpts from the book.

A series of maps were requested by patrons to be digitized. This included 10 maps, which were photographed on the copy stand and digitally stitched together. Metadata is being created for these maps.

9/5 - Aaron met with Trinidad Public Library Director Jessica Huffman about installing a Shared Memories memory lab at their location. Plans were made for Aaron to conduct a site visit 10/3.

On Sept. 14th, we invited poet Jose Antonio Rodriguez to be a part of our 11th annual Latino/a/x Book Festival. Maria coordinated district wide black-out poetry events for September and October.

These programs were presented as part of Latino Poetry: Places We Call Home, a major public humanities initiative taking place across the nation in 2024 and 2025, directed by Library of America and funded with generous support from the National Endowment for the Humanities and Emerson Collective.

### **La Cultura del Té en México: Maria's Kitchen In Person and Tea & Makes**

I partnered with Kathy Kearney and the Makerspace for a Hispanic Heritage Program for an instructional program on how to make Jamaica, hibiscus flower tea. We discussed the importance of tea in Mexican culture and had floral crafts available for everyone.

## **Experiential Learning**

### **Makerspace program highlights:**

- The shrinky dink craze continues as it remains the most popular craft done during Kathy's events, with the excitement for shrinking art seeming to be unending.
- Some of the staff gathered in the makerspace for a few sessions of creating encouraging signs for the corporate cup that seemed to work well, and crafting with coworkers, even for just a little while, was good for teambuilding and cross-departmental collaboration as well as creating over-all good morale.
- The Ristra making class was a big hit, many got to learn new knots while tying off their chilies and getting to take home a beautifully chili scented decoration for the Pueblo Chile season- collaboration with Alyssa and museum services!
- Batik dying for All Pueblo Reads Kick off was complicated to execute with a few technical difficulties, but the participants appreciated having an activity with such intricacy and that felt a bit out of the ordinary to do for celebrating APR.
- Patrons have been beginning to use the Cricut Cutter in the Makerspace during Open hours (bringing their own supplies, of course) and have been really appreciative of having such a tool that many feel owning themselves would get rarely used, but having it here as an option for the occasional project that might come up for its use to be very helpful. Many are asking about getting the 3D printers ready for public use with a few even hoping to do a little prototyping for an idea they have before they



commit to getting such printers for themselves. Ever popular are the crafting tools we have out in the college corner that people love to come and utilize during open hours for their crafty needs.

## **Museum Services:**

### **Exhibits**

Flavors of the Southwest: 9/3-9/30: A community exhibit inspired by the Chile and Frijoles Festival

Endangered Species: 9/3-9/30: This exhibit was created in partnership with the Pueblo Zoo and the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center.

## **User Services**

### **Youth Programming**



*Two 2-year-old girls at a Magic Desktop computer. One child with blond hair wearing white is standing. Brown haired girl with a peach colored shirt is sitting in a green chair with large blue headphones on.*

**Teen Programming** - Teens had a solid month, with a few regulars missing at times, but two highlights: One week Blake introduced the teens to his work on emulation and digital preservation – wherein folks could play a “super-old” racing video game that was on the internet way back when (teens have never lived without the internet...). We also had a fantastic session on banned books and intellectual freedom, with wise beyond their years comments from teens on the issue of “parental rights” – they spoke with maturity on the two poles of complete control over your children and neglect. Many were surprised by some of the books that had faced repeated challenges, though not surprised at the oversized role LGBTQ+ content played in such challenges.



*A man in glasses and a yellow shirt (Thad Stelter) is sitting holding a gray and white rabbit. A 2-year-old boy with black hair and a black shirt stands beside him and is reaching out to touch the rabbit.*

Bunny Storytime with special guest, Harrison the Bunny was a greatest collaboration between Adult and Youth Services!

## **Adult Programming**

### **New Partnerships**

The Reference Librarian worked with the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment to host an information literacy session on grant writing basics, and how to access the nonprofit resources available to the public through PCCLD. The Reference Librarian, Jennifer Scroggins, Shylo Dennison, Director of Community Engagement, Prevention and Response, and Akemi Trujillo, Public Health Planner worked together to host 2 information literacy sessions in September, on grant writing basics, library nonprofit resources, and how to find data specifically for medical grants. This partnership is a result of a local doctor, who also is the Chief Medical Officer for the Department of Public Health, wanting to create a group of local community members that can focus on writing grants specifically for funding services to help provide medical assistance to those who either cannot access it, or do not qualify for medical insurance, and assistance with navigating the medical system in general.

The Adult Literacy Program celebrated the Career Online High School graduation! We were so excited to celebrate our graduates and so fortunate to have Sherri Baca, Mayor Graham, City Council President Mark Aliff, and Rebecca McGhee not only attend but also speak. One of our graduates also spoke about how the Career Online High School program has positively impacted her life, and another shared that she was beginning a nursing program two days after graduation! We were also lucky enough to have Theresa Vega from TRIO attend and share resources with our graduates. And graduation could not have happened without support from an incredible team - Iva DeSiata, Carol Perea, Catie Blickhahn, and Rebecca McGhee were all instrumental in making sure the day went smoothly and the graduates felt celebrated. It was a beautiful and joyful ceremony and we're so proud of our graduates!



*The team that worked on graduation is pictured standing together in front of a cloth backdrop next to a blue, green, and orange balloon pillar. From left to right, Iva DeSiata, Rebecca McGhee, Lev Frank, and Catie Blickhahn all stand smiling at the camera.*

## **Facilities**

### **Work Order Statistics**

- 260 work orders completed.
- 28 custodial work orders completed.

### **Barkman**

- Completed Barkman remodel.
- Supported grand re-opening.

### **Lucero**

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

### **Other duties/projects**

- Supported election setups.
- Supported All Pueblo Reads kick off.
- Complete El Centro set up.
- Supported YMCA Corporate Cup.
- Cleaned up all library grounds.
- Cleaned out Books Again bookstore storage room.
- Certified the backflows throughout the district.
- Certified the fire systems districtwide.

## Volunteer Hours

PCCLD Volunteer estimated hours for the month of September

|                                 |                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>ADULTS</b>                   | 218.50 HOURS       |
| <b>TEENS</b>                    | 21.00 HOURS        |
| <b>BOOKS AGAIN</b>              | 1149.00 HOURS      |
| <b>BOD TRUSTEES</b>             | 20.00 HOURS        |
| <b>TOTAL HOURS</b>              | <b>1408.75</b>     |
| <b>VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS</b> | <b>\$44,782.35</b> |

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Baca  
Executive Director