

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
Report of the Executive Director – October
Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees
November 21, 2024

Barkman Library

Over the month of October, Barkman and its staff settled into a new/old routine of service and programming to its home community. We have received many new patrons with the reopening of the branch and have welcomed many original faces as well.

We had a wonderful patron complimented our library, saying "it looks beautiful and the kids are having a blast in our new area. They are enjoying the story times we provide and hope more people come flooding in to enjoy our services."- Penny Jerman

Team programming events took place at Barkman. Jessica Blaha from Lucero and the Barkman staff planned and implemented a well attended, "Create Your Own Indian Spice Blend." The new meeting room has also hosted the English Classes presented by Maria Smyer.



Maria Smyer teaching English classes.



Jessica Blaha helping a patron create a spice blend.

Over the course of the month, we have also seen an increase of attendance to the Barkman programs.

On the third, we had an amazing Family Storytime. We had 17 people in total, 5 families, which has been the highest amount of attendees to Storytime since pre-COVID. The families were talking about how impressed they were with our remodel, and how the children's room made them feel safe and secure.



Halloween Storytime with attendees in costume. Hosted by Brigitta Meyerhofer dressed as a Jellyfish.

Our outreach partner, Jordan Residential, came to the Barkman library for the first time instead of the Barkman team traveling out to meet them. They were very grateful for the extra space that the new meeting room provides and has determined that they will continue to come because it is easier and more convenient for them.



Participants from Jordan Residential taking part of a library led program wreath craft.

Barkman also whole heartedly jumped into collection maintenance. Staff were very excited to use the new inventory wand. Scanning the shelves, we were able to find items that were still checked out, on hold, or had other problems without having to physically handle each item. It took a couple of weeks, but the team was able to scan each and every corner.



Ingrid teaching a young girl about how the Dewey Decibel system works.



Brigitta taking on the challenge of scanning materials in the childrens' room for collection maintenance.

Giodone Library

For October we participated in several outreach events in our community. At South Mesa Elementary's Fall Festival we hosted a Storytime that featured Owls. At Fulton Heights, we brought Tootsie/Blow Pop ghosts for the youth to make and eat. The Pueblo County Parks department hosted their first Trunk or Treat at the old Boys Ranch recreation area, and we gave out candy to the trick or treaters. We hosted many programs that went along with the All Pueblo Reads theme, hosted a few Halloween type events, as well as having a branch ofrenda for Dia de los Muertos.

Greenhorn Valley Library

All Pueblo Reads - Ten members of the Book Club attended the Author Talk event on 10/27. They said the author was amazing! She spoke about her life and her writing, and she had on the most beautiful and interesting clothing. They also complimented the decorations in the Ryals Room and wanted Community Relations to know how pretty everything was. The All Pueblo Grows seed packets so popular, the bins needed to be refilled frequently. Our All Pueblo Reads display also incorporated spices from the Spice Library at

Lucero. Team members at Lucero shared spices & cheesecloth so their display technique of covering a spice-filled cup with cloth that allows patrons to smell the spice aroma was duplicated here. It was wonderful to add a scent to the display!

We had another amazing year at Halloween Town! Thanks to a huge donation of children's books through a charity by David R. Slayton we were able to distribute over 300 books from our Trick or Treat Booth! And we somehow found time to round up as many Deadpool characters as we could find.

Lucero Library

Tina

Crush Bugs and Dye!

Discover how to crush cochineal bugs to create a red dye. A perfect start to the spooky season

Highlight

- A program held at El Centro for Hispanic Heritage Month. Patrons got a chance to crush dried cochineal bugs with a mortar and pestle and poured them into a pot of boiling water to create a dye
- Facilitator Tina shared the Mesoamerican history of cochineal bugs and their historic uses (as a fabric and body dye). And how it can be used to this day as a fabric dye, used to enhance colors in lipsticks and blushes
- Adults and youth participated in this project. We dyed a shirt together and they got the chance to paint with the dye. Young and older patrons shared how they have cactus in their backyards or they have seen the bugs on hikes and how they will look out for them now in the future

Jessica

Crafty Crew: DIY Halloween Earrings

Come and paint your own Halloween earrings made out of air-dry clay.

Highlight

- A program held at El Centro for adults to use paint markers to create their own 2 sets of air dry clay earrings. Patrons could use stencils or clipart as inspiration to create their own designs.
- The adult patrons appreciate the open studio to make their own Halloween earrings, plus loved having the opportunity to make a set for a friend and keep one for themselves.
- While the facilitator, Jessica, was preparing the earrings days in advance for the program in the mini library space at El Centro several kids were interested in making their own designs and earrings. After looking at supplies, Jessica decided to make some extra earrings for the kids to make their own. Quotes from the kids: "My mom would love this!" and "OOOO I can make earrings for my Halloween costume."

Chris

Program/Outreach

Program/Outreach Description

Halloween Themed Programs were a big hit with the children. They had the most fun painting the little pumpkins and the Halloween poetry was fun because they read the poems to each other after choosing a scary background. The graveyards were fun and the kids were excited to be working with candy and were able to eat their artwork.

Highlight

- Halloween Graveyards- made graveyards using graham crackers, frosting, peeps and sprinkles
- Treat or treat bags- bags made for Halloween

- Painting mini pumpkins- kids painted mini pumpkins
- Halloween Blackout Poetry- used Halloween poems and a scary background to create a picture with a poem
- Witch hats- created a witch hat using paper plates and Halloween gems

All Branch News

Trunk or Treat at El Centro

El Centro Del Quinto Sol's annual event to celebrate Halloween on Saturday October 26th; the Lucero Library tabled at the event.

Highlight

- Devon, one of our frequent Lucero patrons, volunteered to dress up as Bingo. We appreciate him so much!



Bluey and Bingo saying hello to all the trunk or treaters (Jerry V "Bluey" and Devon "Bingo")



Lucero Team at the trunk or treat event



Lucero Team Table at event (Spooky Voices Program, handing out flyers)

Lamb Library, Library @ the Y, Beulah Library

Program Highlights

- Teen/Tween Night

Teen/Tween night is picking up! So happy to report that after some revamping and reevaluating the numbers for teen/tween nights have been increasing steadily and we closed our October with the largest attendee night in several months! Gio has been working really hard making connections and inviting the public to come join us for our teen/tween nights, and with the holidays coming up and more programs planned, I am very optimistic about the success of this program



Water Marble Art Cards!



Teen/Tween Spooky Soaps!

Our recent Henna program was a great hit, drawing in enthusiastic participants who enjoyed learning about and experiencing this beautiful art form. The session was engaging, with each person having the chance to receive intricate henna designs and learn about its cultural significance. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with participants expressing excitement about the program and showed just how much our community values unique, hands-on programs like this one.



Henna Magic!

Cynthia's spooky cemetery craft was a huge hit at Lamb, with a packed registration, and people on the waiting list! Great job, Cynthia!



Cemetery Craft!

Outreach Highlights

- Trunk or Treat at the Pueblo Regent

The trunk or treat event at the senior home was a fantastic opportunity to connect with the community and promote library services. Setting up a festive table, Alva engaged with families with young children, sharing treats and information about our offerings. The response was enthusiastic, with many attendees expressing interest in reconnecting with the library.



Halloween Toddler Storytime

Welcome Cara and Shawn!!

Lamb recently welcomed a new part-time CSR, Cara Vigil, and a new part-time security guard, Shawn Dittmar.

Pueblo West Library

Community Display Cases

Pueblo West Women's League Membership Drive Display
Hispanic Heritage Month Pueblo Historical Display

Art Exhibits

Helping Hands Quilters Quilt Exhibit
Dia de los Muertos - Community Ofrenda

Program Highlights

Artober Begins! October 1st

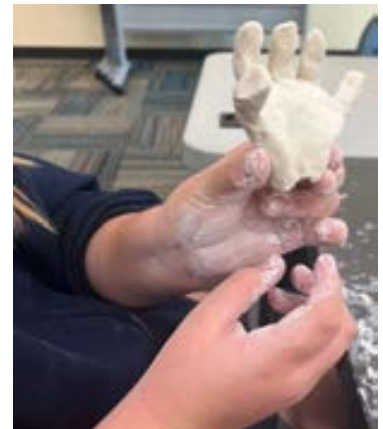
Artober happens every October and is a 31 day art challenge. Youth participate in this program throughout the district and receive a kit2go with art supplies to complete the challenge. At PW we kickoff the program with an art hangout. Youth created art of all varieties with multiple mediums.



Artober program kids at table



Artober Craft clay bear



Artober Craft clay hand

Adult craft: APR- Batik Printing

As part of All Pueblo Reads Ray Packard taught adults the art of Batik Printing. Batik is an ancient printmaking technique in South Asia using beeswax to create the patterns on the fabric. The patrons had a great time working with this intricate method of printing



People at a table doing batik printing

Indian Spice Mixing

The Indian Spice Mixing class on October 25th was fun and very fragrant! Seventeen different spices were available, and attendees could either make their own mixture or choose from six different recipes that were provided, such as garam masala, chai, and tikka masala. Information on the history and cultural importance of these spices was also provided.



People participating in spice mixing class

Dia De Los Muertos Community Ofrenda

We had more community participation this year, with some community members even contributing pictures of beloved pets that have passed away. The ofrenda was available to the public starting October 16, and will be taken down on November 3. Some participants from our sugar skull decorating program contributed their finished sugar skulls to the community ofrenda as well.



Picture of a community ofrenda.

Halloween Trunk-n-Treat!

This year PW hosted another successful, community trunk-n-treat with over 600 people in attendance! This year PW Library's theme was Star Wars and we all had fun dressing up as Star Wars characters. The PW community loves this event!



Groups of people attending the trunk-n-treat.



Staff dressed up as Star Wars characters.

Tech Services

DIRECTOR:

- Jill Kleven gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees at their work session on the concept of Express Library. Information on Jefferson County Public Library's Express Library branch was shared.
- Jill and Elizabeth Flores presented to the PSMs on LibraryIQ. Each manager was assigned a login and are to review their collection data for the upcoming PSM meeting.
- Jill visited the LHG meeting to discuss the upcoming changes with the Rawlings self-checks.
- Jill met with Thomas DeFrates and Kajeet to discuss the upcoming erate program for procuring hotspots.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT:

- Elizabeth and Danielle Cowles are beginning to wrap up ordering for the physical collections.
- Amy Sackett, our Ingram rep visited. She gave us information on curating our adult collections as well as a book lease program.
- Jill contracted with Third Way Space Planning to do an audit of the physical space and collection at Lamb Library. David Vinjamuri will present to the PSMs at the November meeting on how to merchandise collections.

CATALOGING:

- Peggy Bilger presented on Staff Development Day on the topic of the new OCLC cataloging subscription. She discussed the new workflow in Tech Services as well as the visibility of our library holdings to increase Interlibrary Loan requests.
- Susan Gustaveson from OCLC visited and met with Peggy, Jill and Jessica Casados. She discussed the cataloging project and ILL

INTERLIBRARY LOAN:

- Jessica and Jill met with Lucille Windsor and Trish Bengel from OCLC. They discussed turning on Real Time Availability in OCLC which makes lending requests more efficient. There will also be upcoming changes in early 2025 on the way that PCCLD patrons search for and request items within Worldshare.

Local History & Genealogy

PROGRAMS

Closing reception held for the IMAGICKA exhibit in the HRC gallery space.

OUTREACH

Yule Log Exhibit and Reception planning in collaboration with the Beulah Historical Society, as well as

Further planning for the Agricultural Panel at Gidone in collaboration with the Palmer Land Conservancy.

10/1, 14 - Joy Oria visited Pueblo West and Barkman to present on Genealogy resources available through LHG.

10/2 - Hosted 30 students from Mesa Ridge and Widefield high schools. Provided a tour of Rawlings and the LHG department, with vault tour and activities to increase awareness of LHG resources like the microfilm collection and readers and City Directories.

10/24 - Aaron met with Del Norte Public Library Director, Susan Williams about Del Norte becoming a partner in the Shared Memories project.

10/29 - LHG hosted the directors of Curse of the Blue Lights, John Johnson and Brian Sisson for a screening of the film in the Ryals room.

10/30 - Aaron presented to the Colorado State Library's cohort of Digital Collections Stewardship learners about the Shared Memories project. The presentation provided an overview of the project, work done to date, and what's to come in the future. Topics included the importance of face-to-face interactions with potential partners, and the use of Creative Commons licenses to streamline reuse and copyright clearance. Other presenters included GiGi Yang from the Louisville Historical Museum, and Megan Friedel from the University of Colorado - Boulder's Rare and Distinctive Collections. There were 38 in attendance.

Throughout the month of October, Bob Craig volunteered in the Department for 33 hours, resulting in the microfiche cabinet being organized. Bob's volunteering counts towards the Pueblo County Tax abatement program. Bob's timesheet was submitted to Pueblo County.

SPECIAL PROJECTS, INITIATIVES, NEW PARTNERSHIPS

Aaron reached out to colleagues about establishing a monetary value for LHG collections at the request of Sherri. Several methods of determining value of collections were discussed with Aaron, Sherri, Kristi, and Amy on 10/23. It was resolved that Aaron would compile a brief summary of actions to take place in this pursuit, for the benefit of PCCLD's insurer. Deadline for this document is early November.

Aaron and Joy met with Danielle 10/28 to discuss the implementation of Ipad devices for newspapers and serials in LHG. It was resolved that Danielle would provide a device for the Department to evaluate, then provide recommendations about content to add or remove.

Feedback from Patrons:

Good Morning,

Thank you Tabitha for providing the information I requested regarding my grandfather Thomas Connors. I really appreciate your time.

Sincerely, Diane Golob

Hi Tabitha,

Thank you sooo much! This is very important in trying to get my father's passport for a trip on 11/1/24, you're wonderful!

Thank you, thank you!

Lynda

Tabitha,

Thank you so much for this information. You are a God Send. May you have a great day.

Best,

Ronnie

Experiential Learning

Museum Services:

Exhibits: Throughout the month of October, we received numerous compliments on the art and the ofrenda displayed on the 2nd floor. Patrons were impressed with the variety of art works and the skill dedicated to each piece. The shows featured included a collaborative exhibit with art from local SRDA art students, the Staff Art Show, and the Catrina art piece on loan from the Sangre de Cristo Art Center. For the SRDA students, this was the first time that many participants were able to display their art in a professional setting. They greatly appreciated the opportunity and a few participants received personal inquiries asking to purchase their art. The Staff art show saw over 70 pieces this year exceeding the amount received last year. Many staff members were eager to showcase their art and even included pieces created at the most recent staff day. Lastly, the ofrenda and catrina statue from the Sangre de Cristo Art Center was delivered towards the end of the month to help us celebrate the traditional Mexican holiday, Day of the Dead. This display, which will be up until the end of November, allows the community to heal and remember the loved ones they have lost. This display has caught the attention of many patrons and the collaboration with the art center allows us to bring more guests in to see the display.

Programs: This month's programs featured our Makerspace and InfoZone spaces. There were consistent attendees at each of the APR screen printing sessions which provided us with the opportunity to get to know our community better and create more intimate spaces. These attendees also visited our Hispanic Heritage Month programs, creating a Community Despacho and Tortilla Making, which were both hits for all ages, including youth. Many attendees of the tortilla program requested that this program be offered again in the future. A reoccurring program that started this month was Tour Tuesdays which offered free, walk-in InfoZone Tours. While attendance was low for this program, 2 people did attend one of the tour sessions and were able to reminisce on their experiences with communication technology.

Volunteers: This month, 2 volunteers were brought on to support museum services. In the same month, Shyla Shanholtz, a volunteer since May 2024, was brought on to join the district's Event Staff Team. Shyla began volunteering as a result of being unable to find a job immediately after high school and before she started college. This volunteer opportunity allowed her to gain skills that made her competitive in the job force. Her passion for the library grew within her volunteer role and she has expressed that she is excited to continue her journey here within our district. Other achievements completed by our volunteers include Nancy Johnson who completed hours for the Property Tax Work Off Program, Ashley Donley who completed hours for a scholarship she received to complete her nursing degree from Pueblo Community College, and Ashton

Plascencia who started this month and will be completing hours for a scholarship he received to complete his art degree and museum studies minor at Colorado State University Pueblo.

Makerspace Services:

October was the first month to feature our new Cold Forging program and it was a hit with lots of excitement from the patrons who got to attend to enjoy the empowerment of getting to mold metal into just about any form they could imagine with just a few tools. It was well attended and everyone seemed to have a good time and made some great pieces! Several asked if it could become a consistent program in the makerspace with more tools and equipment to build more metalworking skills upon.

Circulation Services:

Our meeting rooms continue to be well attended- we hosted everything from multiple girl scout troops to religious meetings, CSU-Extension Office homeschool groups to attorney/client meetings. We celebrated the end of Hispanic Heritage month with our table toppers and displays as well as Halloween and Dia de Los Muertos.

User Services

Youth Program



Photo Above: A young woman with long hair, dressed in black shirt and pants, is holding a clear container close to 2 elementary children, with a black scorpion inside that is being illuminated by a blue light. Around the two children, 9 other children and parents are visible in the room, sitting on black chairs.

Nature's Educators came with a bioluminescent scorpion, bird eating spider, red tailed boa, and a barn owl to teach homeschool children about nocturnal animals during the Homeschool: Creatures of the Night program. Rebecca from Nature's Educators provided a lot of information about the animals and answered questions. This was a wonderful educational experience for the homeschool community.

Teen Program



Picture above: "Dyslexia Babushka" – a small stuffed orange tabby cat resting its front paws on a book with "DYSLEXIA" printed in a large font. The cat is reimagined as a babushka with part of a black bandanna wrapped around its head and tied below its neck. It is adorable

The day before Halloween, teens did some “reimagining” (at times loving, at times more destructive) of stuffed animals. Pictured above is one of the two reimagined stuffed animals – “Dyslexia Babushka” and teens also made an “Undead Unicorn Split Open.”

Adult Program



Picture above: Pebble painting and shrink art from the Tea & Makes program on October 22 . A pebble painted red with black spots rests on a black coffee cup lid. Another rock painted red with black spots is on the surface above it. Another object with wings painted purple and green and a long thin body painted with the same colors. Another object shaped like a tree leaf is painted red, brown, and orange rests nearby. Three painted pebbles lay in a group to the side—one with a yellow flower, one with small yellow and purple flowers, and another a red center with black dots.

Chair & Makes APR program collaboration with Jessica Blaha and the Spice Library to make chai for Tea & Makes. Program attendees who enjoyed drinking chai onsite and as a Take2Make.

On October 23rd the **Adult Literacy Program** held its first Adult Storytime event during which the Adult Literacy Administrator read from the All Pueblo Reads book *The Henna Artist*. We partnered with the Pueblo Regional Center and had a total of 15 attendees including interested community members. The Adult Literacy Program also successfully onboarded three new tutors, matched one tutor with a learner, and awarded the final COHS scholarships for the year, bringing the total number of COHS students to 17



Pictured Above: Butter Chicken Cooking Demonstration to Celebrate All Pueblo Reads and “The Henna Artist”. The instructor is a man with long hair in a ponytail with a mustache, standing at the front of the Makerspace, preparing food ingredients for the dish. This image shows 17 of the participants.

Butter Chicken Cooking Demonstration on October 4th. Attendees were able to take home an Indian Spice Blend that included turmeric, cumin, coriander, garam masala, curry powder, paprika, and kashmiri chile. Attendees were also able to try a sample of the finished dish.

On October 17th, the Reference Librarian hosted a **Grant Writing Boot Camp** in conjunction with the Colorado Nonprofit Association. There were 20 participants from local nonprofit organizations. Participants had the opportunity to learn basic grant writing skills including how to research grants and how to access nonprofit library resources. The event was funded through the Doris Kester Nonprofit Grant.

Facilities

Work Order Statistics

- 281 work orders completed.
- 42 custodial work orders completed.

Barkman

- Supported punch list.

Lucero

- Supported renovation project.

Rawlings

- Installed new lighting in vestibule.
- Ran wire for 3rd floor sensors.
- Worked on boiler control with Setpoint.
- Modified front sign.
- Serviced café equipment.
- Installed power for IT bench.
- Repaired elevator.
- Drained water feature.
- Replaced lighting in closets and mechanical areas.
- Installed shelf and wire for TV in Ryals room.

Other duties/projects

- Winterized all libraries.
- Supported the El Centro del Quinto Sol.
- Supported All Pueblo Reads.
- Supported Staff Day.

Volunteer Hours

PCCLD Volunteer estimated hours for the month of October.

ADULTS	249.75 HOURS
TEENS	5.5 HOURS
BOOKS AGAIN	1274.50 HOURS
BOD TRUSTEES	20.00 HOURS
TOTAL HOURS	1549.75
VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS	\$44,782.35

Thank You Messages

Comment Form: Barkman Library

I love the renovated Barkman Branch. The layout is really nice. Space really great. New chairs comfortable. Lighting is good. Best of all the staff is very helpful, friendly & knowledgeable.

he parking lot is very good an spacious.

I am happy this branch is back open! Alicia is great!

Apolonia Martinez - Patron

Respectfully submitted,
Sherri Baca
Executive Director