

PRESS REPORT

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Pueblo County Library District putting finishing touches on Lucero Library

By: [Carl Winder](#)

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PUEBLO, Colo. (KOAA) — The Pueblo County Library District is putting the finishing touches on the Lucero Library on the east side.

This project cost just over \$4 million. The money comes from the group's operation budget, as well as donations.

Some of the renovations include the following:

completely renovated interior space

dedicated areas for kids, teens and makers

bigger community room

"This library is one of our most highly trafficked locations," said Nick Potter with the Pueblo County Library District. "The east side doesn't really have a lot of amenities like a library where they have meeting room spaces, access to computers and technology."

The library district expects to be done with the renovations by October 1. A ribbon cutting will happen at 9:30 that morning.

Pueblo library set to reopen after year-long \$4 million renovation

By Brianna Leonard

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PUEBLO, Colo. (KKTV) - A Pueblo library is set to reopen after a year-long \$4.2 million renovation.

The ribbon-cutting for the Patrick A. Lucero Library is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday at the East Side-area branch located at 1315 E. 7th St.

Grand opening week events include:

- Unveiling the Lucero Community Walls, 5:30–6:30 p.m., on Tuesday
- Leading with Courage: Hispanic Women Who Shaped Our Region, 6:30–7:30 p.m., on Tuesday
- Fur-Ever Friends: Paws & Power-Up Party, 4-6 p.m. on Thursday

Representatives for the library said improvements included an expanded community meeting room; dedicated spaces for children, teens and adults; a new audio and visual studio, and a refreshed book collection.

The East Side library is named after Patrick A. Lucero, a Pueblo native who served in the Vietnam War and was killed in action in 1968. Representatives say the library was dedicated to him in 2014, and since then, it has received more than one million visitors.

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Renovated and expanded Patrick A. Lucero Library set to reopen Oct.1 on Pueblo's East Side

James Bartolo

The Pueblo Chieftain

It is among the youngest library branches in the Pueblo City-County Library District, but it is also among the most popular.

Patrick A. Lucero Library, 1315 E. Seventh St., is celebrating its grand reopening on Oct. 1 after a year of being closed. The East Side [library branch](#) underwent a \$4.2 million expansion and renovation project to add dedicated space for community gatherings, children, teens, adults, an updated book collection and an audio-visual studio.

The project adds about 2,500 square feet to the Lucero Library branch — increasing its size to about 10,000 square feet. The Oct. 1 ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 9:30 a.m.

"I would say that Lucero is one of our more high-traffic locations," Pueblo City-County Library District Director of Community Relations Nick Potter told the *Chieftain*. "It was one of our smallest footprints, which is what necessitated us to expand it."

With the Risley School of Exploration just across the street and a couple of elementary schools blocks away, the Lucero Library has seen a significant influx of after-school traffic from students and their families. Once the Lucero Library reopens, the new space is expected to be utilized by youth looking for a place to study or hang out.

"This new teen space provides some really great areas for them to do studying, group projects... There's even a gaming area there," Potter said. "We'll do teen programming after school for our kids that come over from Risley. We also have a dedicated maker space, so we can provide some really great programming for kids."

Two outdoor chess tables have been added to the library branch campus as part of a partnership with Hardknox Gang Prevention & Intervention — a program assisting at-risk youth who may be pressured by or attempting to escape gang culture.

"This library continues to serve the East Side of Pueblo with renewed energy and purpose," Pueblo City-County Library District Executive Director Sherri Baca said in a news release. "This milestone is more than a building — it is a testament to our community's resilience, pride and belief in the power of public libraries to uplift and connect. The Lucero Library stands ready to welcome the community back with open doors and open hearts."

Slate of events scheduled to celebrate Lucero Library reopening

Three free, open-to-the-public events at the Lucero Library are scheduled in addition to the Oct. 1 ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate "grand opening week."

Unveiling the Lucero Community Walls: From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 30, the Pueblo City-County Library District will unveil a Digital History Wall celebrating the East Side and a wall honoring Patrick A. Lucero, a Vietnam War soldier from Pueblo killed in action and the Lucero Library's namesake.

Leading with Courage: Hispanic Women Who Shaped Our Region: Immediately after community walls are unveiled, Librarian Charlene Garcia-Simms will lead a storytelling event recognizing notable Hispanic women in Southern Colorado and Pueblo history.

Fur-Ever Friends: Paws & Power-Up Party: A petting zoo featuring a Highland cow, stuffed animal adoptions, school supply giveaways, crafts and a photo booth are part of this event taking place on Oct. 2 from 4 to 6 p.m.

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