

**PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT**  
**Report of the Executive Director – November**  
**Submitted to the Library Board of Trustees**  
**December 11, 2025**

## **Barkman Library**

It's a month of amazing programs!!!!

Amazing Storytimes!: Penny Jerman, our Program and Outreach Specialist, led two very special story times this month. Dragons in Storytime led to some very fun “fire” gymnastics and a follow the leader directions for the craft. Many little kiddos and their caregivers learned some of their first “teacher” led directing. Resulting in the lovely chaos of “roaring” dragons.



Paper Dragon Craft Sample



Child showing off dragon craft

Firefighters visit the Library:

Fire Safety was the theme of the day for families at the Barkman Branch. Firefighters came and explained to the crowd how their equipment works, and all the kids and families received a chance to hold and use the firehose!



Firefighters helping child use the firehose.

Gnome-ember: Gnomes and gnomes some more... The adults participating in our Gnome crafts, really liked this version of the crafts because being made from Styrofoam, they last longer and can be made for different seasons unlike the ones made from rice.



Program participants lined up and showing off their Gnome creations

#### Most Beloved: Teddy Bear Sleep Over

Our most loved program this month for both our young patrons and out staff. It was expressed by staff, that the “awed” and “hopeful” expression on the kids faces as they made a wish on a physical star decoration to be sewn into their new stuffed friend, was almost beyond words and incapable of capturing on camera.



New Teddy bear friends “listening” to a story

Honorable Craft Mention: painted bears using forks....so cute!!!



Team Programming: Outreach Specialist Penny Jerman teamed up with Lucero's Outreach Specialist Jessica Blaha to bring forth the cheese! A specialized Charcuterie Program was organized and offered to the community. This program was designed to inform the public about affordable low to non-cooking options available to them. Comments from attendees include; "Jessica and Penny were very approachable, awesome; want more classes like this; fun and hands-on; well-organized; fun; well-planned; and we need more educational cooking."

## Giodone Library

**Staff Update** – Carlos Gonzales, who had been a substitute for the library district for several years, has been promoted to our CSR 2 at the Giodone Branch. We are excited to have an experienced CSR in this role.

**Outreach** – Lorena conducted a weekly story and craft at Avondale Elementary with an average of 18 students. Lorena presented Storytimes to Ascension Preschool- 48, and Thatcher Preschool.

**Program Highlights** – Thanksgiving holidays and travel can make programming a bit tricky during the month of November. We had several popular Kits2Go and passive programs available to make sure that we had fun activities for families whenever they had the time to stop by. Some of the kits that were available included: Dia de los Muertos, painted wooden Wicked crafts, Dinovember, Fall Break crafts, Puzzle Swap, Sticker Mosaic and a Turkey Scavenger Hunt. We had a total of 278 participants in our Kits2Go!

In a program partnership with Storytellers of the Ancestral Red Road (SOAR) they presented us with a beautiful sign, that was co-created at a library program, to display.



Our in-person programs were successful as well. For our adult craft class participants made gift cards for their holiday presents.



**Circulation Details** – Library IQ shows that we circulated close to 40,000 items so far in the last 12 months. That Giodone has less than 1% of items that haven't circulated in 3 years. I included stats for Avondale, Vineland, and County High as those act as hold pick up locations for our area.

## **Greenhorn Valley Library**

### **Program Highlights:**

The team and patrons at Greenhorn Valley Library got to enjoy a fantastic combination of Indigenous Heritage and some dinosaur fun this November (or Dinovember as many know and love). We had story times and crafts that highlighted different Native American cultures and art, and thanks to Karaline and Ashley plenty of literature was provided for future information and education about both the art and the cultures that it came from. We also had a dinosaur story time and a very popular dinosaur terrarium program, as well as a dino themed scavenger hunt with special flexi prizes that we 3D printed in-house just for this month. Karaline took point this month on our Daytime book club's discussion of Fellowship Point, and the Book Club After Dark read Raised by a Serial Killer after wrapping up our indigenous short story collection from last month. As usual we also had our two increasingly popular D&D programs (the kid group played out the Battle of the 5 Armies from The Hobbit), Magic the Gathering, multiple day options of yoga classes, a junk journaling program for adults, and "adult show and tell" where patrons could bring in their treasures and talk about them. A few of our items included an albino lobster, some toy cars from WWII Germany, and a phrenology head. We also got to host a month-long Ute exhibit thanks to the Museum Services department!



### Outreach:

This month Ashley continued her outreach at the VFC Community Center, a weekly class at the elementary school, and her monthly visit to the high school. In addition to her usual outreach materials she brought to-go kits of the dinosaur terrarium for the high school students and the students were so excited about it that she ended up coming back to the branch with a wait list of students who wanted one and she ended up swinging by the school again with a dino delivery the next week.



### Displays:

For November we made sure to dedicate our main display area to Native American Heritage Month featuring indigenous authors in a variety of genres, another display highlighting Indigenous Wisdom. We also made sure to focus on food, fall, and dinosaurs along with a dedicated display for Newberry Medal winner books, Diane Keaton, dragons, empathy, and more.



## **Lucero Library**

### **Tina**

Highlight: Hello Kitty Birthday Celebration

Description: In honor of Hello Kitty's 50th birthday, we celebrated at the library with cupcakes and a special jewelry program on November 3rd! We had over forty attendees with regular attendance from our afterschool kids and the Boys and Girls Club came over specifically for it. Elementary students, high school students and adults in their 20's enjoyed learning jewelry-tool techniques to make earrings, bracelets and necklaces with Hello Kitty and other Sanrio character-charms. We heard from Melvin (middle school student) that he made earrings for his mom, Janessa (Boys and Girls Club Staff) made a necklace for her sister-in-law, and that Julia and Carena made friendship bracelets for each other. As our final attendees left the room, I had them yell, "Happy Birthday Hello Kitty!!", which came with lots of giggles!

### **Jessica**

Highlight Adult Program: UV Resin

Description: Our recent UV Resin program was a huge success! The class was well-attended, and participants had an amazing time learning the art of working with UV resin. Attendees explored techniques for mixing, pouring, and curing resin to create beautiful, personalized pieces, including keychains and holiday ornaments.

The energy in the room was fantastic—everyone loved experimenting with vibrant colors, molds, and embellishments. Many patrons shared that they enjoyed the hands-on experience and were excited to take home their unique creations. I would like to share some quotes from our participants: "I hope you continue to offer classes like this. I look forward to them and the patrons I've become friends with!" -F.M.; "Jessica, thank you ever so much for squeezing me into this class. I love it! It was my first time ever working with resin."

### **Chris**

Highlight Youth Program: Fall button (painted tree)

Description: I purchased some butterfly and animal buttons that I had the kids print out a tree design and glue the buttons on the tree as leaves. They came out really cool and they loved the buttons. We also made some paper plates, scarecrows and fall wreaths. Fall bingo was fun and the kids can't get enough of that. I also run movies during my crafts which the kids enjoy. Working with Mark during chess and helping with Tina to create a more structured way that the kids sign up and play the game. Also sitting in and helping the kids make jewelry for the Hello Kitty party that Tina put together.

### **Branch Highlight:**

Highlight Program: David Carillo & Gabe Charboneau

Description: This month we have had the pleasure of hosting 2 guests for the youth and community.

Gabe provided the youth with an opportunity to learn from his life and mentorship. Gabe brings years of media, marketing, and public relations experience, consistently approaching his work with creativity and a positive, solutions-focused mindset. His background in motivational speaking and coaching—shaped by his career as a former professional fighter—adds discipline, resilience, and energy to his work. Gabe’s ability to craft compelling messaging and inspire others strengthens the organization’s visibility, engagement, and overall impact.

David is a published author who spoke to the community. He brings strong academic and professional expertise to the organization, holding an MBA in Organizational Leadership and certification in Paralegal Studies. As an Independent Consultant and Adjunct Faculty member, he specializes in providing critical insights into sentencing and plea bargains, supporting attorneys and clients with clear, well-researched analysis. His work emphasizes transparency, informed decision-making, and risk management within the legal process. David’s commitment to continuous learning, diverse perspectives, and effective communication strengthens the organization’s capacity to serve the community and advance its mission.

Both have been a great experience for the community and the youth.



Sardine Can Magnets

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

### Program Highlights

- Adult Programming

November was a lively and engaging month at the Lamb Library, filled with hands-on learning and meaningful celebrations.

We honored Veteran’s Day with a special screen-printing activity designed to create personalized thank-you gifts for veterans. In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, participants viewed a Ute creation story and then crafted spun-cotton creatures inspired by the myth—an activity that blended culture, creativity, and storytelling.

We also brought some lighthearted fun to the month by celebrating National Sardine Day, complete with a sardine taste test and the creation of whimsical sardine-can magnets (see photos).

Our wellness offerings continue to grow as well. Attendance at our gentle stretching classes for seniors has steadily increased, and there is already strong excitement building for the launch of our Ageless Grace classes in the new year.



Adults crafting corn husk flowers

- Teen/Tween Programming

This month, we crafted our way into Native American Heritage Month with the Husk Flower Studio! Teens and tweens learned the tradition of corn husk artistry while creating beautiful handmade flowers. For Socialite Saturday, our teens tapped into creativity and culture as we crafted our own dreamcatchers! Using hoops, beads, feathers, and vibrant cords, everyone designed a unique piece inspired by the traditions behind this meaningful art form.

- Children's Programming

Fall storytime was a hit this month, with engaged families and seasonal books and activities kept kids excited, and the overall atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and well-received.



Children and Caregivers enjoying Preschool Storytime!

### YMCA:

Our YMCA creative workshops continue to gain momentum, reaching a new milestone this month with 30 participants—the highest attendance to date. Attendees enjoyed painting charming wooden gnomes to display on their hearths or around their homes, and we also offered an additional screen-printing session for those who missed last month's popular workshop. The enthusiasm and steady growth highlight how much this partnership is resonating with the community.



Teen Dreamcatcher Craft

## **Outreach Highlights**

The Minnequa Pop-Up Library saw strong attendance this month, and residents were enthusiastic about future activities. Residents made follow-up requests, showing clear interest and growing engagement with the program.

## **Pueblo West Library**

### **Community Display Cases**

Pueblo West Women's League Membership Drive Display  
Local Job Training & Employment Opportunities Display

### **Art Exhibits, Estimated Attendance TBD**

Pueblo West High School student art and photography exhibit.

**Pueblo West Library held a total of 99 programs, outreaches, club meetings, technology training, and Kits2Go with a total attendance of 2039.**

## **Program Highlights**

### **Switch @ Tween Hangout**

Pueblo West recently acquired a Nintendo Switch. The Tweens have enjoyed using it to play Mario Kart. They had a blast playing it at the Tween hangout, along with coloring and reading graphic novels. This hangout was a roaring success!



### **Adult Craft: Wooden Mandalas**

The adults enjoyed painting Mandalas. They noted how relaxing the process was.



### **Stuffed Animal Sleepover!**

18 stuffed animals spent the night exploring and making mischief in the library! They had a blast reading stories, playing games, and making new friends!



### **Stuffed Animal Tea Party!**

The patrons enjoyed a Tea Party with their stuffed animals after their stuffed animals stayed the night in the library. Many attendees noted how great the program was for the youth. Everyone enjoyed fruit herbal teas, snacks, and crafts with their stuffed friends.



## **Tech Services**

### **DIRECTOR:**

- Jill Kleven hosted a training for subs and floats on Nov 17th that Kayci Barnett, Sharon Rice, and Rebecca McGhee participated in. They presented on various procedural changes in Koha, SAM, and Adult Winter of Reading.
- Jill and Thomas DeFrates met with OCLC to discuss the timeline and process from moving EZ Proxy to a hosted solution. This should take place by the middle of January.

- Jill, Elizabeth Flores, and Theia Bravo held an onboarding for new employees on November 6<sup>th</sup> on the various areas of Technical Services. They later recorded the training for Niche Academy.
- Jill, Sherri Baca, and Amy Nelson met with David Vinjamurri from Third Way Space to discuss the upcoming audit of Pueblo West Library in April 2026.
- Jill continued to work on implementing Message Bee for patron notifications.

#### **COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT:**

- Danielle Cowles and Elizabeth finished their ordering for the year. Print had to be cut off sooner than usual because of issues with a vendor.
- Jill participated in a webinar on being a beta library for the Cloud Library recommendation feature. That should start in January.

#### **ILS/DEVICES:**

- Theia Bravo deployed more of the juvenile hotspots that have the CIPA filtering turned on.
- Theia worked with the IT department and District 60 to get the files uploaded into Koha for Connect Ed accounts.

## **Local History & Genealogy**

11/13 - Author talk with John Johnson, 18 in attendance: Local filmmaker, professor, author, and photography, John Johnson presented on the topic of the Zone System of photography and his new book, "John Henry Johnson: Selected Black & White Photographs, 1967-1979". Many local photographers and those that appreciate art met in the Friends of the Library meeting room to hear Johnson. Copies of the book were sold by the author.

#### **HRC**

Bilingual Storytime: 51

English Conversation Class: 6

Beginner English Class: 15

Intermediate English Class: 9

Beginner Spanish Class: 9

Tea and Makes with Kathy: 12

11/1 - Dia de los Muertos - The 2025 celebration and remembrance were held in the Ryals Grand Event Space. YS, ELD, and LHG staff (Katalina L.) worked collaboratively to set up the room, which included activities and food and drink. A station was set up to print photos of deceased friends or family of patrons. These photos were placed in frames and patrons could add them to the altar on the 2nd floor. There was an additional crafting station where patrons decorated pre-made sugar skulls and made

paper butterflies. There was also a face painting station with a volunteer to assist. A mariachi band and Folklorico group performed. Patrons remarked that they enjoyed these performances and the ability to print photos and do crafts. Culturally relevant refreshments were served. To drink, horchata and agua de jamaica, and pan dulce to eat.

#### GEN programs:

- 11/12, Ask a Genealogist! - 0
- 11/07, Microfilm Media - 1
- 11/15, Fray Angelico Chavez Chapter meeting - 28

**Total Attendance (in person): 344**

#### **OUTREACH**

- 11/3 - Information Session at Villa Bella Expeditionary School (Attendance, 45) Aaron taught two sessions to 5th grade classes on primary source literacy and analysis by looking at the history of sugar beets and child labor in Colorado through photos, maps, and other published works online. Resources were provided from PCCLD and external sources.
- 11/20 - Informational Session about Hispanic Resources for Chicanos por la Causa at Christ the King Church Parish
  - This organization wanted literary resources for children 3-5 and Hispanic resources for the parents involved in their head start program. Katalina L. brought information regarding English and Spanish classes. Many parents did not speak English. Katalina provided registration forms for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library so their children can get 1 free book a month; and bookmarks with PCCLD Storytimes. This presentation was given in both English and Spanish.
  - Katalina confirmed with the Early Literacy Librarian regarding the resources for the age group 3-5 to provide information about Storytimes at our branches, our collections, and the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program.

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

##### **Shared Memories**

- 11/21 - Aaron R. travelled to the Trinidad Public Library where he completed the installation of their memory lab by connecting a time-base corrector. Aaron also completed a thorough inventory of all equipment at this location.

##### **Genealogy Projects**

- Checked in periodicals: 16 issues (from mail + donated + found unprocessed in vault)
- Submitted fourth bindery shipment of the year to Technical Services
- Put up display of Native American books on LHG display tables

- Put up display of Native American genealogy on shelves in GEN area
- Began spreadsheet for Project Rootshelf - a project with technical services to identify the shelf location of GEN books
- Had consultation with DU intern Anne Francis about genealogy research strategies

### **Physical Archives Projects**

- 12 vault visits

### **HRC Projects**

- Working on expanding the HRC and youth (Spanish) collection with books that align with the monthly themes
- Focusing on the English class schedule plan for 2026 with Sandy and Jerry
  - Need to send the English learning books to Giodone and Lucero
  - Need to re-work the English registration forms to have more languages available

## **Experiential Learning**

### **Makerspace Services**

#### **Artist in Residence**

Rick's month in the Makerspace went well. His programs had traction and lots of new people came and took his classes and discovered our Makerspace through doing so. He taught how to draw with colored pencils and also some still life drawing! A few who have been our regulars for a while made sure to let me know that so far they have been really enjoying our artist residency programs, and that the artists we have brought on so far have been amazing to learn from.

#### **Branch Program**

I went to Lucero to collaborate on a program with Tina on making shirts using the cricut, and it went well! Almost the full list of registrants came, and we were able to work together pretty well helping the patrons and making sure everything got done as needed so they took home completed shirts. I packed up our Cricuts and laptops, took them over there for the program, and they made the trip really well. I quite enjoy getting to collaborate at the branches. Music Programing

Ukulele choir has been seeing steady numbers, and the group has still been excitedly pursuing gigs to perform at all over town!

#### **Fiber Arts**

We brought Melissa back for a class on making and using a lazy kate for its various functions in yarn making, which went really well with a lot of people expressing excitement about us bringing the program series back in the new year. Sharon was able to teach the long requested knitting classes which people seemed to really enjoy. We had most of the crew who attended the first session return for the next,

with a few newer folks jumping in, but they seemed to be able to keep up with the lesson.

## **Museum Services**

### **Exhibits:**

Ute STEM at GHV: This exhibit has been much appreciated by the patrons at GHV. Feedback I have received for this exhibit has been very positive and patrons of all ages have engaged with the material. The day the exhibit went up, I was able to witness some homeschool students immediately gravitate towards the interactives. The staff at GHV have also been helpful in ensuring that during or after programs, that their visitors take a peek. They have reported that patrons have been very intentional about reading every panel.

Pride and Patriotism: This exhibit was in collaboration with District 60 and the Home of Heroes Association. Through this partnership, grade school children were able to artistically express how Veterans day impacts their everyday lives and show appreciation for the sacrifices people have made on their behalf.

Teen/Tween Art Show at Barkman: This is the first time that the annual Teen/Tween Art Show has been held at a location other than Rawlings. Patrons at Barkman enjoyed the display as it encouraged other youth to make art and created a beautiful outlook on the local community

### **Programs:**

Quilt Witch Hats: The quilt witch hat program provided patrons with a fun sewing challenge. Patrons of various skill levels learned about the challenges of sewing, but also experienced the joy of having a final product that is useful and cute.

Closing Reception for Rick Espinoza: Rick Espinoza has been a wonderful addition to our 3rd floor gallery. His artwork brought many people to our library. For this event, participants ate cookies and talked with the artist, but the most special moment was when Rick's dear friend gave a blessing to the library, staff, and patrons, which he did in his native language.

Frybread and Film Night: This event was a bigger success than expected. While we had some technical difficulties with our heating element at the start, patrons were so happy to learn how to make frybread for their upcoming holiday feasts. We even had a very special visit from a local group that helps those with special needs to prepare to be out on their own by attending cooking classes and work ready activities.

## **Circulation Services**

November has been a relatively busy month in circulation as we celebrated Native American History with our displays and posters, made our floor welcoming with Thanksgiving decor, and helped celebrated Dia de los Muertos by lending our staff's hands and talent to support the building's program! Our meeting rooms have been

booked solid through the month with our usual cast of characters and we have recovered well from hosting our very first election polling station. The day of the event went smoothly, thanks to security and the front desk staff as well as our wonderful civic volunteers. We are looking forward to the holiday season!

### **Pictures:**



## **User Services**

### **YOUTH PROGRAMS:**

#### ***Family Program:***

Youth Services hosted a successful homeschool slime program with 100 people in attendance. Pictured Below: Natalie (Program and Outreach Specialist) demonstrating the final steps of making slime.



The Stuffed Animal Sleepover and Pop-Tart Breakfast Storytime was a highly successful two-part program, achieving 51 attendees. Children dropped off their stuffed

animals for an overnight library adventure, building excitement for their return the next morning. The program concluded with a shared Pop-Tart breakfast during a special storytime. Pictured below: Two boys excited to show off their stuffed animals who are going to stay the night at the Library.



### ***Tween/ Teen:***

The "Build It!" program successfully implemented the Makedo kits, providing an open-ended experience focused on creation and initiative. The program was designed to encourage youth to use simple tools to build anything they imagined from cardboard. This highly engaging format also proved popular with caregivers, who actively participated alongside their children, resulting in a dynamic, collaborative event that effectively promoted critical thinking and hands-on learning. We had 59 in attendance. Pictured below: A group of youth along with their caregivers designing their creations.



### ***Big Events:***

Our annual Día de Muertos Celebration was a vital and well-attended cultural event for the community. The celebration served as a vibrant and respectful space for remembrance, bringing together families to honor departed loved ones through traditional arts, music, and activities. A central feature of the event was the community Ofrenda (altar/offering), which provided a special place for patrons to contribute

photographs and memorabilia, deepening the personal connection to the celebration. This annual program successfully provides a valuable opportunity for community connection and meaningful engagement with heritage. We saw 150 in attendance. Pictured below: The Ofrenda, Ballet Folklorico performing, 2 youth working on activities provided during the event.



## **ADULT PROGRAMS:**

### ***Technology Support and Services -***

Began offering one on one appointments to the community, had 10 appointments throughout November. Hosted three open tech labs on Tuesdays for the week. Had an appointment with a Rawlings regular who felt very comfortable and excited to be able to schedule more appointments and to be able to ask questions whenever she needed help.

### ***Reference Services:***



Pictured above are a table with crafting and writing supplies, and 6 people pictured.

On November 15th, 2025 there was an Author Talk for local author Cathrina Jakeman. She read excerpts from her new chapbook, "Why I Bite-Exploring girlhood, illness, and rage". This was written in experimental prose, and discussed themes surrounding long-term illness, pain, womanhood, and gnaws at the liminal space between the body and

memory, the personal and the performative. In addition to doing a reading, Cathrina Jakeman also conducted a writing workshop with participants.

### ***Library to You and Aging Adult Programming***



In the top photo a staff person from the Nature & Wildlife Discovery Center with a red-tailed hawk while a group of people of all ages watch.



In the bottom photo a small gray owl perches on the same bird handler's glove.

Forty-five people of all ages attended the Birds+ Makes program in the Rawlings Makerspace on November 15, 2025.

## **Facilities**

### **Work Order Statistics**

- 350 Work Orders Completed

### **Barkman**

- Installed temperature thermostats.

### **Giodone**

- Started moving desk.
- Completed keypad access.

### **Greenhorn**

- Replaced dishwasher.

### **Lucero**

- Worked on final punch list.

### **Rawlings**

- Patched and painted basement office.
- Sealed window ledges in Tech Services.
- Cleaned and organized basement storage area.
- Cleaned up grounds (leaves).
- Repaired vestibule lights on 4<sup>th</sup> floor.
- Ran power to Finance cubicle.
- Supported elevator modernization.
- Repaired café coffee grinder.
- Replaced admin breakroom faucet
- Cleaned and removed safety issues in stairwells at Rawlings.

### **Other projects/duties – District**

- Replaced tires on district vehicle.

## **Volunteer Hours**

PCCLD Volunteer estimated hours for the month of October.

<b>ADULTS</b>	<b>83.25 HOURS</b>
<b>TEENS</b>	<b>10.00 HOURS</b>
<b>BOOKS AGAIN</b>	<b>1033.83 HOURS</b>
<b>BOD TRUSTEES</b>	<b>20.00 HOURS</b>
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>1147.08 HOURS</b>
<b>VALUE OF VOLUNTEER HOURS</b>	<b>\$39,096.91</b>

## **Thank You Messages**

### **Pueblo West Library**

*Ray Packard – Children's Librarian*

-Ray is excellent with the children. She has patience and kindness. She always supplies something fun to do. - Patron, Pueblo West Library

-We enjoy Tween Hangout very much! My grandson has been attending for a year and looks forward to Ms. Ray's program. Professional and kind describe Ms. Ray. – V. Salaz, Patron, Pueblo West Library

Respectfully submitted,  
Sherri Baca  
Executive Director

