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Pueblo library district to launch \$2 million capital campaign

PUEBLO, Colo. – The Pueblo City-County Library District and Pueblo Library Foundation will launch a \$2 million capital campaign to fund renovations for two of the district's branch libraries. A campaign announcement is scheduled for 10 a.m., Wednesday, July 17 at the Lucero Library, located at 1315 E. 7th St.

"This is the beginning of a transformative chapter for our community as we launch the Building Community Together campaign to renovate and expand the Barkman and Patrick A Lucero Libraries. This project is about more than just buildings; it's about ensuring everyone in Pueblo has access to the resources they need to learn, grow, and thrive. Join us in creating a library that reflects the spirit and aspirations of our community," Nick Potter PCCLD's executive director of library foundation and strategic initiatives said.

The Building Community Together Capital Campaign is an intensive fundraising effort needed to complete the expansion and renovation of the Frank and Marie Barkman and the Patrick A. Lucero libraries. These two library facilities will undergo improvement efforts that will enhance each location's capacity to grow its services to meet the ever-changing needs of Pueblo's children, teens, families and adults.

The Barkman Library has served the Belmont neighborhood and northern Pueblo for more than 30 years. The ongoing renovation and expansion of the Barkman improves the interior and exterior of the branch while adding an additional 2,643 square feet onto the building. More than 1.6 million visitors have come through its doors during the past 11 years alone. Since opening to the public in December of 2014, the Lucero Library has welcomed more than a million visitors. This small branch library is heavily used by the community and has quickly outgrown its footprint.

Overall cost of the renovations is more than \$8.9 million; the price tag includes design, construction, furniture, fixtures and equipment. Renovations will primarily focus on refurbishing, and expanding the interior of the buildings along with exterior site work. Currently, more than \$525,000 has been raised through a combination of public and private funding.

Lucero Library will close to the public August 3 in preparation for work to begin; Barkman Library is expected to wrap up at the beginning of September. A week of grand opening festivities is scheduled,

beginning with official ribbon cutting at 9 a.m. on September 10 at Barkman Library, located at 1300 Jerry Murphy Rd.

“It is the goal that through the renovation of both Barkman and Lucero Libraries that patrons will have access to improved and expanded libraries. Through improved facilities, library programs, and a great selection of print and digital books, we aim to ensure that there is something for everyone at Pueblo’s libraries. We are committed to continually improving library services and facilities in our community,” Sherri Baca PCCLD’s executive director said.

Donors wishing to support the Building Community Together capital campaign on a more personal level will have the opportunity for naming rights within each branch. Available options include \$50,000 for the children’s areas in both libraries to \$5,000 for a study room at Barkman library. Those interested in learning more about the campaign can visit www.pueblolibrary.org/BuildingCommunityTogether.

Leading the renovation of Lucero Library are HBM Architects and Interior Designers of Cleveland, Ohio. Pueblo’s own H. W. Houston Construction is charged with managing construction. HBM Architects, along with Denver-based Anderson Mason Dale (AMD), lead renovations to the Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library and to the nearly completed Barkman Library.

Lucero Library renovation plans include:

- Expanded public meeting room
- Improved front entrance
- Larger spaces for children, teens
- New children’s discovery area
- New Maker Space
- New audio/visual creative studio
- Refreshed book collection

An expanded public meeting room and revamped front entrance will increase the branch’s footprint to 10,000 square feet, enhancing the branch’s capacity to grow its services to meet the ever-changing needs of Pueblo’s children, teens, families and adults.

Lucero Library will remain closed during the renovations; construction is expected to be completed in 2025. The public is encouraged to visit PCCLD’s other locations, including:

- Tom L. and Anna Marie Giodone Branch Library, 24655 U.S. Hwy 50 E.
- Greenhorn Valley Branch Library, 4801 Cibola Drive, Colorado City
- Lamb Branch Library, 2525 S. Pueblo Blvd.
- Library at the Y, 3200 E. Spaulding Ave.
- Pueblo West Branch Library, 298 S. Joe Martinez Blvd., Pueblo West
- Robert Hoag Rawlings Public Library, 100 E. Abriendo Ave.

PCCLD is dedicated to serving as a foundation for the Pueblo community by offering welcoming, well equipped and maintained facilities, outstanding collections, and well-trained employees who provide expert service encouraging the joy of reading, supporting lifelong learning and presenting access to information from around the world.

Stay up to date with PCCLD visit www.pueblolibrary.org and follow our social media pages.

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