

**PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WORK SESSION MINUTES
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 following the Special Meeting
*This meeting was conducted at the
Barkman Library – 1300 Jerry Murphy Rd. – Pueblo, CO***

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:18 pm and Ms. Jubert conducted roll call.

Board Members Present:

- Fredrick Quintana, President
- Trisha Macias, Vice President
- Jeffrey DeHerrera
- Stephanie Garcia
- Doreen Martinez
- Jessi Ones

Board Members Not Present:

- Iris Clark

Attorney Present:

- Bart Miller – Collins, Cole, Winn, & Ulmer

Staff & Guests Present:

- Sherri Baca, Executive Director
- Amy Nelson, Deputy Library Director
- Nick Potter, Executive Director of the Pueblo Library Foundation & Strategic Initiatives
- Bri Reyes, Chief Financial Officer
- Mark Castillo, Director of Human Resources
- Mark Gonzales, Director of IT
- Jose Beltran, IT Help Desk Specialist
- Rose Jubert, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

II. CORRECTIONS OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA

Members of the Board of Trustees or the Executive Director may suggest corrections or modifications to the agenda at this time.

There were no corrections or modifications to the agenda.

III. REPORTS

A. Executive Director Report

1. Barkman Library Update

OVERVIEW: Alicia Griebel, Barkman Library Manager, provided an update.

Barkman Library reported steady patron engagement alongside a significant spike in local 3-D printing service utilization. Total active registered "Home" account holders currently stand at 18,580

patrons. While current tracking metrics cannot fully capture returning users who shift exclusively to digital platforms, the on-site staff has successfully utilized in-building activities to re-engage past patrons and market available e-resources.

Rachel Trujillo joined the team in April as the new security officer, providing strong support for the branch. Additionally, Nick Naranjo completed his first year of service and is pursuing an archival track with mentorship from branch leadership.

The branch upgraded to a new 3-D printer. Staff member Marcus Bower has taken the lead and has created a spreadsheet to keep track of requests and information.

Successful branch programs were discussed to include: a puppet show, the Raptor Center visit, and the junior paleontologist program.

Outreach partnership with Pueblo Food Project and CPR Colorado were highlighted. Both were very successful community programs with programs providing produce and herbs and CPR classes to library patrons.

2. Makerspace and IdeaCon Update

OVERVIEW: Sharon Rice, Manager of Experiential Learning, provided an update.

The new makerspace, built in 2021, was created to support innovation, experimentation, and learning by doing. It serves learners, makers, artists, and community members. Making continues to evolve as does the space and programming and equipment needs.

The Makerspace reported exceptional growth, achieving a participation increase of over 200% during the past three years. Despite experiencing recent staff absences and operational transitions, data indicators project that total year-end performance for 2026 will match the high volume recorded in 2025.

The Makerspace demonstrated significant community impact by expanding equitable access to specialized resources and fostering an environment for collaborative learning. The facility serves as a vital local resource that bridges equity gaps and builds critical practical skills across diverse demographics.

The Makerspace reviewed current programmatic successes and outlined key strategic opportunities for 2026 and 2027. Successful specialized workshops across multiple age brackets demonstrated a high community demand for expert-led, hands-on technical training and instruction. Moving forward, the department intends to scale these services district-wide through mobile infrastructure and expanded artist partnerships.

The outcomes of the 2025 Artist in Residence program was reviewed, analyzing community engagement metrics and key operational lessons learned. The program successfully engaged 153 total community members across three distinct artistic disciplines. Administrators outlined structural adjustments for future iterations to better accommodate both visiting artists and program participants.

The Board received an update on the 2026 Artist in Residence program, which expanded its scope to include performing arts and fashion design. The program has achieved 186 participants year-to-date across the first two residencies, with steady engagement anticipated through the Fall.

The history and community impact of IdeaCon was provided, celebrating its role as a signature local

cultural event. Established in 2013 by a library teen librarian, the event was created as an equitable, cost-free alternative for local youth who could not afford to attend the Denver Fan Expo.

The operational outcomes of IdeaCon 2026 were reviewed, celebrating a highly successful event that drew 1,143 attendees during its optimal hosting month of September. This year's convention featured an unofficial theme centered on authors, driving significant expansion in both literary and vendor participation.

3. Summer Reading Recap

OVERVIEW: Rachel Salazar, Manager of Youth Services, provided an update.

The Summer Reading Program achieved milestone engagement this season, exceeding its initial 12,000 game-board entry goal by late July and ultimately securing 14,042 total entries. This represents a sharp increase over the previous year's total of approximately 11,400 entries. Strategic operational shifts drove this growth, most notably moving the kickoff event from a Saturday to a Friday, which successfully doubled attendance from 900 to 1,800 participants. The kickoff was enriched by key promotional acquisitions, including 500 copies of *Dog Man* for giveaways, 200 copies for the Little Free Library, and a character photo-costume. Featured entertainment included the North Mesa Elementary Band making their official public debut, alongside *Sci Guy on the Fly* from the CSU Fort Collins Extension, who volunteered free interactive fossil viewings and virtual reality dinosaur simulations.

Administratively, the Youth Services team introduced structural and data-driven updates to improve tracking and inclusion. Data analyst Connor Carson provided granular youth metrics for the first time, revealing that the program's top participant submitted 102 individual game boards. The program maintained its accessible "Read 5, Do 1" structure across two age-tiered game boards (0–8 and 9–18), and successfully integrated Spanish translations directly onto the main boards, generating overwhelmingly positive community feedback. District-wide programming was strategically streamlined by combining tween and teen cohorts under our new teen librarian, establishing a highly predictable weekly matrix across branches that drew 858 attendees to creative sessions like 4th of July bedazzling and sand mask art. Concurrently, the family early literacy track drew 1,494 attendees and featured highly popular hands-on projects, such as a Smithsonian-sourced shark teeth necklace workshop.

The sustained interest throughout the summer was heavily reinforced by an extensive, tiered incentive and sponsorship structure. Regular participants returned to collect localized rewards, including books, snacks, toys, and collectible milestone charms, highlighted by custom 3D-printed charms at the Barkman branch. To ensure equitable distribution of high-tier rewards, coordinator Gloria Madril secured sponsorships and deeply subsidized community experience packages for weekly giveaways—such as behind-the-scenes zoo tours and city park outings—which successfully re-engaged families with local businesses. Additionally, the library system continued its branch basket initiative to ensure smaller locations could directly reward local patrons, distributed this year under a popular cinema theme in June and an art theme in July.

B. Friends of the Library Report

The next report will be provided at the October trustee work session.

C. Quarterly Foundation Report

The next report will be provided at the December trustee work session.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Elevator Project Final Report

OVERVIEW: A report will be provided

The Board reviewed the procurement process for the elevator project, which encompassed the initial Request for Proposals (RFP), contract award criteria, consultant support, and overall project costs. The final funding structure utilized \$146,007 from the general fund alongside \$720,000 from the Public Urban Renewal Authority, which was secured through a Bank of the San Juan's loan, this is St. Charles Urban Renewal Area Tax increment that reverts back to PCCLD over the remaining 15 years of that urban renewal plan.

Following construction, consultant Lerch Bates completed final performance reviews evaluating elevator speed, door operation, safety functions, and general compliance. The work was formally deemed complete, with only limited adjustments identified that fell well within acceptable specifications. Per the contract terms, the district will now operate the elevators for a 30-day trial period before releasing the final retainage payment, initiating a one-year warranty alongside standard maintenance and recertification requirements.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 pm

The next regular meeting of the Pueblo City-County Library District Board of Trustees is scheduled to take place beginning at 5:30pm, Thursday, September 24, 2026 at the Rawlings Library - Ryals Event Space – 100 E. Abriendo Avenue – Pueblo, CO.