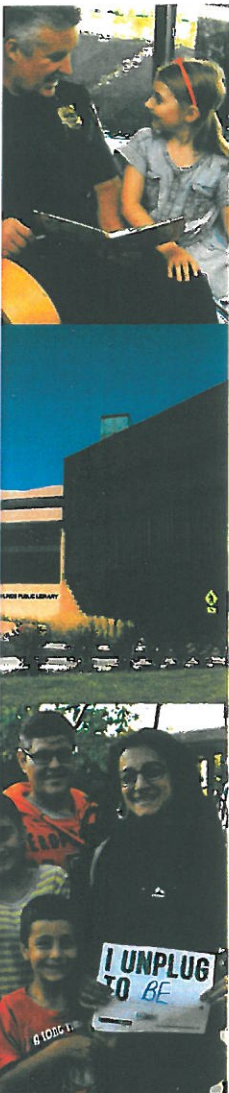




INSTITUTE of
Museum and Library
SERVICES



2018 NATIONAL MEDAL
— for —
MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICE



PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

Pueblo, Colorado, is a city at a crossroads. This historically working-class town, long supported by a thriving steel mill, is now a diverse community of over 165,000. Pueblo City-County Library District (PCCLD) aims to provide the best possible public library services for its residents, and over the last five years, Pueblo citizens have increasingly made use of its robust resources.

ALL PUEBLO READS

PCCLD devotes a majority of its attention to literacy, emphasizing the whole family's literacy journey. Early childhood initiatives are a key focus, supplemented with lessons given to parents and guardians to underscore the importance of reading. In the fall, the library hosts All Pueblo Reads, a program that encourages every community member to read and discuss one book at the same time each year. The library's annual Summer Reading Club sets up temporary libraries at parks in neighborhoods where there is no easy access to a library branch. This year, more than 1,600 third, fourth, and fifth grade students have participated in the Read Out Loud program with nationally-prominent young adult authors who emphasized the importance of literacy.

CELEBRATING PUEBLO'S HISPANIC DEMOGRAPHIC

Recognizing that 50 percent of the population is Hispanic, PCCLD established the Hispanic Resource Center, providing services, activities, and free resources in both English and Spanish that illustrate the importance of Hispanic culture and history to the region. Located within the center, Nuestra Biblioteca broadens access to Hispanic and Latino resources by employing bilingual staff members who make cultural and educational services more available to the area's diverse population.

RESPONSIVE SERVICES FOR UNIQUE NEEDS

Since 2014, PCCLD has opened three new branches that extend the library's outreach activities, providing a more prominent presence in the community. One new branch opened in Pueblo's poorest neighborhood, where endemic issues such as gang activity affect a person's lifelong success. PCCLD established a gang intervention program at this branch, which included hiring a licensed social worker to engage with the neighborhood kids, as well as using games like chess to provide a positive outlet for competitiveness and anger.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

In partnership with a number of adult education institutions, Pueblo City-County Library District provides courses to adults so they can earn their high school diplomas free of charge and at their own pace. Career Online High School also provides career certifications so residents can develop skills for jobs in such high-demand fields as food and hospitality, homeland security, and childcare and education.

"Our staff believes in the philosophy of *community librarianship*, the practice of embedding ourselves within the community. The more we reach out to our community, the more the community will come into the library. Our librarians are, of course, in our libraries, but they are also out beyond our walls, listening and serving our community and encouraging residents to come through the library's doors."

— JON WALKER, LIBRARY DIRECTOR, PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

PUEBLO CITY-COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
100 East Abriendo Avenue
Pueblo, CO 81004-4232
P: 719-562-5619
pueblolibrary.org
Jon Walker, Executive Director



The mission of IMLS is to advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. The agency's four strategic goals are to promote lifelong learning, build capacity, increase public access, and achieve excellence.

Learn more at www.imls.gov/about-us

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES
955 L'Enfant Plaza North, SW, Suite 4000
Washington, DC 20024-2135
202-653-IMLS (4657)
www.imls.gov

