

County Librarian's Report to the State Librarian, October 24, 2016

Pima County Public Library
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Interim Library Director

PCPL Upgrades to Sierra

PCPL upgraded from Millennium to vendor-hosted Sierra on October 17. In use since 1997, Millennium was based on older technology and system architecture. The advantages of the upgrade include that the public interface and features are the same, patrons retain their reading histories and all account settings, patron records are no longer locked up when in use by the system, the website platform that PCPL uses (BiblioWeb+BiblioCore) is fully compatible and can take advantage of APIs, and the switchover took only part of one day.

Stories that Soar TV and Literacy Connects Partnership

The Library and Literacy Connects are partnering on Stories that Soar TV (STSTV) a partnership in which teens, professional actors and media artists team up through digital engagement and across many literacy platforms. In addition to the video production team of teens and adults, elementary aged writers are virtual collaborators, providing original stories as content. There is a place to feed stories online and in analog form through the Literacy Connect Curiosity Boxe(s.) STS TV will operate on a rolling production schedule, so more than one story is always in production. This allows any teen to get in on the act at any point in the process. Stories that Soar TV is in production for the next 6 weeks at Valencia Library, and will also play in 101 space and at the Oro Valley maker space in the coming year too.

Kids Voting

Kids will be voting this November at Mission, Southwest, Eckstrom-Columbus, Himmel, Murphy-Wilmot and Oro Valley Public Libraries, thanks to Kids Voting USA, Arizona. In early November, these libraries will be setting up voting stations using a laptop, or computer in the kid's area and a voting booth popup. Participating libraries get Kid Vote, Arizona Voter IDs, and "I Voted" stickers. Ballots are designed for school age kids, grades 2 through 5.

Quest for Talent Expo

The Talent Team at Pima County Public Library is setting the stage the Quest for Talent Expo in December and January, an event that connects people, skills, to programs hosted by the library. Like many libraries, Pima County relies on the skills and talents of partners, agencies and individuals to provide valuable and relevant programs in changing times. The goal is to advance programs, events and workshops that respond to community concerns and needs.

We have engaged our staff as talent scouts. For example, team has approached existing partners and key community sectors, like Tucson's Downtown Innovation District, to redesign the proposal process, gauge interest and encourage referrals. A proposed program's value is scored through hands-on demonstration. A program's scheduling power is decided by staff and representatives of the library's audience during Expo events and its staying power is tested in the library's venue(s).

Quest for Talent's focus is community engagement at all levels, which is a perfect goal as we ramp up for the Collaborative Library Program's theme BUILD A BETTER WORLD. The expo also builds innovation by inviting in new talent, resources and skills, and creative abilities. Partners like Literacy Connects and the Drawing Studio offer popular volunteer-supported, skill building programs that complement the library's Community Impact Plan. Partners such as XeroCraft Hackerspace have services and technology such as 3-d printers, and the willingness to subcontract with peer mentors, with artists and other do-it-yourself types in the community.

Snack Attack and Community Foodbank of Southern Arizona Partnership

The library has partnered with Child Nutrition Specialists at the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona to bring afterschool snacks to the library, strengthening our snack attack program. Staff from Santa Rosa, Southwest (new to the snack program), Quincie Douglas, Martha Cooper Mission and Columbus attended Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) training with Linda Kraemer of the Community Food Bank. Joel D. Valdez Main Library continues the snack program through regular Food Bank warehouse appointments. The Library joins 22 schools and Parks and Rec programs in Tucson in the federally CACFP funded program.

Our appreciation goes out to Caitlin Burns for coordinating this efforts with the Community Foodbank of Southern Arizona and for supporting the Snack Team if libraries. These staff members have pursuing the steps to ensure their libraries can maintain this program for the kids in their neighborhoods. The CACFP snack program is more robust, and it brings with it number of accountability pieces such as safety inspections, food handling courses, reporting activity measures and the possibility of routine inspections. Not a program for the faint at heart, but our team members have proven they are ready for it!

Caitlin writes, "Arizona is number 3 in the country for child food insecurity and 25% of children in Pima County experience it. Even though this is a change for our program and it requires some initial legwork to get staff trained, I'm confident this will address a vital need in our community in a more sustainable and cohesive way."

Tucson Meet Yourself

Tucson Meet Yourself is an annual celebration of the living traditional arts of Southern Arizona's and Northern Mexico's diverse ethnic and folk communities. The Pima County Public Library table at Tucson Meet Yourself was organized by Joel D. Valdez Main Library staff. Together, we were able to reach 463 customers! We also offered a Read to a Dog session and a button making workshop for people to stop in and enjoy. Both were very popular.

Rainbow Storytimes

Children's Services has hosted Rainbow Storytimes throughout the month of October. Rainbow Storytimes are designed with an emphasis on celebrating diverse families. The families sang, shared stories and made rainbow fish.

Nuestras Raíces

The Nuestras Raíces team, formerly Spanish Services, is sponsoring a recruitment event in December to attract bilingual/bicultural librarians to the Pima County Public Library System.

Trauma Fatigue Team

The recently-formed Trauma Fatigue Team acknowledges the need to provide the support and tools for staff to recognize stress response in themselves and their coworkers in order to build resiliency in the face of trauma exposure. Efforts to respond to secondary trauma exposure, burnout and compassion fatigue are the team's goals for the 2016-2017 fiscal year; the data collected will be used to support staffing adjustments and to justify self-care trainings.