



## County Librarian's Report to the State Librarian, September 2019

**Pima County Public Library**  
**Amber Mathewson**  
**Library Director**

### **Grow with Google Economic Development Event at the Main Library**

The Library was proud to partner with Grow with Google on Monday, June 10 to provide a day of digital learning to 324 small business owners, entrepreneurs, and job seekers. Business Librarian II Kassy Rodeheaver and Community Relations Manager Holly Schaffer worked with Google to coordinate a huge day-long event at the Main Library. In addition to 4 structured workshops, Googlers were on hand to offer personalized assistance on updating website SEO strategies, registering and improving business visibility in Google My Business, and using G Suite tools. Guest Speakers included Richard Elias, Chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, State Librarian Holly Henley, and Google Executives Josh Auffret and Chris Mussett.

### **25,631 Snacks and Meals Given to Kids and Teens This Summer**

Thanks to wonderful partnerships with Tucson Unified and Amphitheater Unified School Districts and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, the Library was able to help feed the kids who might otherwise have gone hungry when school was out. The summer months can be a very difficult time for families who rely on the meals their children get at school. With this program, the Library provides a safe place where kids can eat, learn, play, and relax. After all, isn't that what being a kid during the summer is all about?

### **Food for Fines Brought in 10,000 Pounds of Food**

During the two weeks of Food for Fines, customers donated over 10,000 pounds of food. Of this, over 8,000 pounds went to the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, and the rest went to rural food banks in Pima County. Some people donated even if they didn't have fines, and many others donated more food than was required to reduce their fines. We were able to clear over \$7,900.00 in fines, helping over 4,000 library customers reconnect with the Library without having to worry about fines on their accounts.

### **Library Night Out**

June marked the inauguration of a new, bimonthly program that coincides with our monthly Bookmobile stop: Library Night Out in Old Pascua, which is a collaboration among the Pascua Yaqui Nation, the San Ignacio Council, Arizona Public Media and the Pima County Public Library. The highlight of the evening was a sneak peak of the new animated PBS children's television series, Molly of Denali, the first of its kind with a Native American lead character. The second Library Night Out event in August featured the screening of the award-winning movie, Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World. Both events were packed, and the partnering

organizations are gearing up for a veteran-themed event in November to mark Native American Heritage Month.

## Summer Reading

Summer Reading began and ended with a big bang which is appropriate for this year's theme, A Universe of Stories. The program kicked off with a Family Fiesta held at the Tanque Verde swap meet. We signed up over 400 kids for summer reading, gave away 600 free books to kids of all ages, and had fun making crafts. The Family Fiesta is the perfect opportunity to reach families who don't already come into the library.

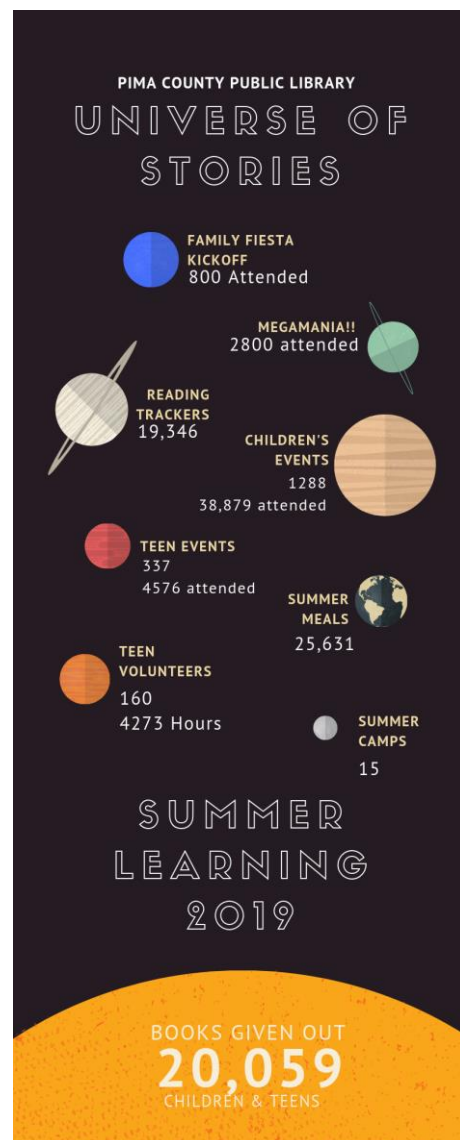
The program ended with MegaMania, a comicon style event held at the downtown campus of Pima Community College. Over 2800 people attended the event and had fun learning at author and artists workshops, making costumes, participating in a cosplay showcase, playing video and board games, and figuring out clues to escape from staff created "Escape Rooms". This event is truly all ages with teens, children, families, young adults and adults all attending. We also gave away close to 1,000 books at MegaMania.

Summer Reading and Learning continued throughout the summer at each of our branch libraries. We registered 15,346 kids at branches and community outreach sites for a total of 19,346 kids participating. PCPL locations presented a large number and variety of learning programs in the summer for early learners (527 programs, 17,099 attending), school age learners (1,288 programs 38,879 attending), and teen learners (337 events, 4576 attending).

In addition to the engaging drop-in programs, PCPL offered 15 different free summer camp programs at several branches. These camps offered tweens and teens the opportunity to engage in interest driven programming at a deeper level than the typical library program. Kids learned computer coding, podcasting, biology, math and science as well as life skills like critical thinking, problem solving, and growth mindset. Having free camps at the public library is an important way to increase learning equity in our community!

Another way of increasing learning equity is by giving books to children. One of the largest predictors of reading success for children is access to books in the home. PCPL has made a commitment to increasing home libraries and this year, we contributed to that goal by handing out a total of 20,059 books to children and teens!

PCPL also helped support the developing workforce of Pima County by providing volunteer experience for over 160 teens and interns in June and July. Teen volunteers and interns contributed 4,273 hours of volunteer work to PCPL branches.



## **Writer in Residence in Libraries 2019 at PCPL**

Working toward connecting the community to the world of writing and authorship has been and continues to be a priority for Pima County Public Library. The Arizona State Library's Writers-In-Residence at Libraries (WIRLs) project is a unique experience that has become a pillar of Pima County Public Library's Literary Arts program. PCPL's WIRLs interact with people of all ages, as they offer workshops and provide consultation hours that help the productivity of writers, and inspire conversation, and connection around the creative process.

PCPL wants to be a key conduit to writers and publishers. The Writers-in-Residence at Libraries is the ultimate event that supports this effort. The WIRLs program has helped to build relationships that strengthen our libraries and enhance their work, by helping PCPL staff to know more about the writing community, their interests, and building relationships that allow for dialog there. Here are a couple of examples of how this robust program best serves staff and community engagement.

Writer-in-Residence Susan Cummings Miller, who served in spring of 2018, coordinated a keynote at the Western Writers of America (WWA) conference by Southwest Books of the Year (SWBY) panel. Panel members Vicki Duraine, Helene Woodhams, Gregory McNamee, Bruce Dinges, and Ann Dickinson presented to a capacity crowd. Quite a few in the audience approached the panel following the presentation. Author Heidi Osselaer shared that, after PCPL released SWBY in January, sales of Arizona's Deadliest Gunfight increased - including a dramatic rise in library orders. A bookseller from Denver's Tattered Cover Book Store routinely uses SWBY and places The Emerald Mile in countless hands. The WWA president asked several on the panel to serve as judges for the 2020 Spur Awards.

In addition, Spring WIRL Alice Hatcher connected PCPL program staff to Bill Adams, who is publishing a "how-to" guide on self-publishing. PCPL will schedule workshops in September leading up to National Writer's Month. "Based on my experiences as the Writer in Resident, I am certain this would be a popular, Alice wrote. At least twice a week, I need to tell someone that I just don't know enough about self-publishing to answer their technical questions. If I am becoming chummy with many of the drop-in visitors, and I can use those contacts to get the word out. To be honest, there might be too much interest."

Once again the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) and the support of the State Library has given PCPL the flexibility to think outside the box experiment, expand and engage the writing community through the Writers in Residence at Libraries Project.

## **Flowing Wells Library Renovation**

The Flowing Wells Library opened on December 10, 2018 after an expansion and renovation led by the award-winning and internationally recognized Tucson architecture firm Line and Space LLC that almost tripled the size of the library. The Grand Re-Opening of Flowing Wells Library took place on February 23, 2019 with special guest speakers Pima County Supervisor Sharon Bronson, Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association Vice-President Ellie Towne Neal, *Images of America: Flowing Wells* authors Kevin and Marie Daily, and Pima County Public Library Deputy Director Karyn Prechtel-Altman. The speakers expressed their excitement about the enhanced quality of life for the neighborhood with the expansion. Families and members of the community filled the library, and enjoyed an afternoon of refreshments, live music, family story time, and activities for all ages.

## **Flowing Wells Library to be highlighted by *American Libraries* Magazine**

The newly renovated Flowing Wells Library will be included in *American Libraries*' 2019 Library Design Showcase ([www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org](http://www.americanlibrariesmagazine.org)) and will appear in the magazine's September/October 2019 issue. We are so excited about our new library! Line and Space, LLC. Architects ([www.lineandspace.com](http://www.lineandspace.com)) did a fantastic job. Please take a moment and check out the library at either website. The building gained 8,000 square feet, dedicated spaces for all ages, a large meeting room and kitchen that opens out to a patio, and innovative Storytime room complete with programmable lighting.