

September 2021 Report from the Executive Director

ADMINISTRATION

By David Slivken

Build America's Library Act

S. 127 & H.R. 1581 would provide \$5 billion to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities in underserved and marginalized communities. Introduced in the Senate on January 28, 2021, by Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI) and cosponsors, and in the House on March 3, 2021, by Reps. Andy Levin (D-MI), Don Young (R-AK) and cosponsors, the legislation would fund upgrades to the nation's library infrastructure to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, broadband capacity, environmental hazards, and accessibility barriers.

Funding Distribution—Funding would be distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to state library agencies. State libraries would then award grants on a competitive basis to libraries in each state. Funding would be prioritized to libraries serving marginalized communities, such as high-poverty areas. Additionally, IMLS would provide funding directly to tribal libraries. Eligible facilities under the Build America's Libraries Act include public libraries, tribal libraries, and state libraries that provide service directly to the general public.

Eligible uses of the funding include:

- conducting facilities condition assessments, needs assessments, and master planning;
- financing new library facilities; or
- making capital improvements to existing library facilities, including buildings, grounds, and bookmobiles

Improvements to library facilities could include enhancements to:

- protect health and safety, such as preventing the spread of COVID-19;
- upgrade broadband equipment and technology hardware;
- improve accessibility for people with disabilities;
- abate hazards such as mold and lead; and
- increase environmental sustainability, such as energy efficiency.

The Poudre River Public Library District supports a strong community where everyone thrives. Our facilities are a huge part of fulfilling this vision—bringing people of all ages and backgrounds to connect with each other, as well as with the services and resources that build educational and economic opportunities. If this federal measure is passed, the Poudre River Public Library District would have an

opportunity to apply for this funding and provide our residents with services like out-of-school learning, services to immigrants and refugees, computer and internet access and so much more. The measure would help our district realize the vision of our 2019 Master Facilities Plan. We currently need to expand library service in NE and SE Fort Collins, as well as improved outreach opportunities throughout our district.

COMMUNICATIONS

By Katie Auman

In September, the Communications Department welcomed Annie Crumpton to the team. Annie is our new digital communications assistant and will be working with many of the Library's digital channels, including social media, email marketing, the River's Mouth blog, and others. We're excited to have her on the team!

September Highlights:

- First direct mail piece from the "Next Chapter" campaign dropped this month. It was mailed to approximately 7,700 library cardholders who are considered "occasional" or recently "inactive" users and who do not have an email address in their account. Cardholders with email addresses who are "occasional" or "inactive" received an email version of this mailer. Total audience = 22,000+.



- Awarded a \$10,000 Colorado Creative Industries grant for Fort Collins Book Fest. The Colorado Creates grant is a two-year federal grant supported by the National Endowment of the Arts that is split between 2021 and 2022.
- Began widely promoting the 2021 Fort Collins Book Fest happening October 22-24 with in-person and virtual sessions. Visit www.FoCoBookFest.org for author lineup, event schedule, and updates.



- Earned media coverage in September included
 - “Fort Collins Book Fest kicks off Oct. 20 with workshops, author talks and more for book lovers of all ages” – *Greeley Tribune*, <https://www.greeleytribune.com/2021/09/30/fort-collins-book-fest-kicks-off-oct-20-with-workshops-author-talks-and-more-for-book-lovers-of-all-ages/>
 - “Books and Films for Hispanic Heritage Month” – *The Silver Lining Magazine*

Ongoing Activities:

- Building a library programming plan, including staff input, best practices, evaluation options, etc.
- Assisting Community Outreach with planning the 2021 Día de Muertos community celebration happening throughout October and culminating in a public event on November 6 at the Gardens on Spring Creek. Visit www.NoCoDiaDeMuertos.org for news and updates.
- Continuing efforts related to social media, email communications, newsletters, video development and other key activities to keep the community updated on Library services and news.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

By Ken Draves

Community Outreach Librarian (Adults)--- Africa Garcia’s report.

Programs & Events:

- Book Club for Mortals 9/15
- Café de Olla Book Club 9/16
- Revive Your Pride! Fort Collins Pride Event 9/19
- Mexican Cartonería Workshop 9/21 and 9/28

Committees & Teams:

- FRCC Diversity Committee x2
- LCN Steering Committee
- Larimer County Digital Inclusion Design Team – Digital Roots x2
- Costumer Digital Experience
- Dementia Together Advisory Board
- City of Fort Collins Navigators

- Latinx Task Force and Outreach Team (8th Judicial District)
- Culture Focus Group - WHAC

Professional Development:

- Workforce Symposium
- Outreach Series – Webinars x4
- New Service Models for Patrons with Intellectual Disability - Webinar

Working on:

- Día de Muertos: Northside Aztlan Altars Coordination
- October Computer Classes: PSD & UV
- December Breads of the World 12/8
- 10/1 Mural Celebration
- 10/2 Digital Inclusion Open House
- City of Fort Collins VirtuVisit Devices
- Homebound: have list of volunteers ready to come back. Working on onboarding. Also working with Communications to update HB materials.
- Memory Care Kits: Working with Communications on promotion strategies.
- Affordable Housing for Seniors – needs?

Other:

- CIO maintenance
- RingCentral
- Cookbook donations to Dementia Together

Community Outreach Librarian (Children and Teens)-- Ludy Rueda's report.

In partnership with PSD Language, Culture & Equity, the Community Outreach Department has designed a Virtual Literacy Engagement Series for Spanish speaking families whose children are on a READ plan (mostly English Language Development program students). Sessions will take place through the Fall. Outreach staff will present library services that support literacy skills. Through our partnership with Larimer County Alternative Sentencing and Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, we have secured literacy kits for all the families signed up as well as a venue for a closing event on December 1 at the museum.



We have updated the “Informal Lending Libraries” service, which is now rebranded “Free Books for All”. This service consists of small but specialized offsite collections of donated books around town that support Poudre River Public Library District’s mission by providing universal access to resources for knowledge, innovation, and enjoyment. Books are in English, Spanish, and other World Languages and are identified with a "Free Books for All" sticker. Thanks to volunteers, signage features 8 different languages. More than 2,000 books are in the collections.



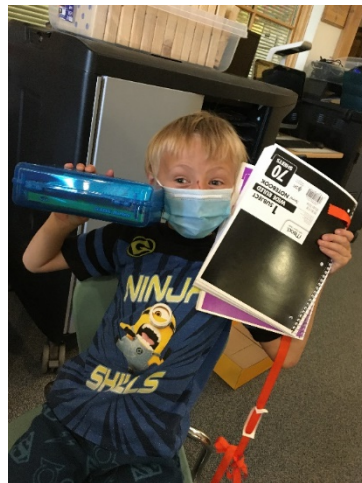
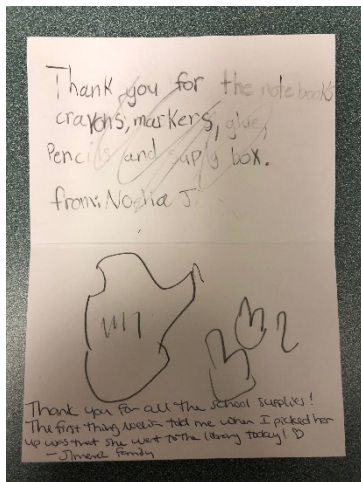
I'm responsible to manage our Spanish Facebook page, which now has a new name and image. The page has increased its followers and users and we are able to promote library services to a specific target audience. In addition, I regularly translate content for other library's social media channels to provide a more inclusive impact.

In close collaboration with Communications Department, we have created content for the Day of the Dead website which has been published. It provides thoroughly researched, accurate and

current bilingual information on this celebration as well as a comprehensive list of events.

www.NoCoDiadeMuertos.org

Lastly, I started offering Storytimes at different PSD schools and sites including Larimer County Boys & Girls Club (Rincón de Cuentos) and North Aztlán Center Early Childhood program and the mountain schools at Stove Prairie and Livermore. Most of these storytimes were followed by an art activity and children also received a "Back-to-School" kit provided by Larimer County Alternative Sentencing. Students, teachers and parents were very appreciative of the service the library provides.



COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY

By Currie Meyer

Children's Services Librarian Amy Holzworth reports:



Fall outdoor storytime started September 7. The program, for children birth through age six and their caregivers, is offered at nearby Harmony Park on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturday mornings. Outdoor storytimes will continue through December as weather allows, and as health measures direct.

Public Library Association Family Engagement virtual professional development series started on September 14. Amy (Cohort 3) is attending this monthly national training centered on the next phase of the Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) model. ECRR

focused on child centered engagement; the PLA Family Engagement model adds a family and caregiver engagement focus.

Circulation Supervisor Xochil Arellano reports:

Continued transition to supervisory role in September with Managing at the City course, weekly 1:1 meetings with Currie and weekly meetings with Circ Supervisors Holly Bucks (OTL) and Kim Doran (HL).

Completed Circulation Sharepoint page set-up, including guidelines and news for Circulation Department with Holly and Kim.

Circulation operations: Data tracking in September revealed each CER (hourly staff member) is shelving an average of 2-3 carts per four-hour shift; removed material-specific signs from outside drop boxes for ease of use and balance of materials in drop bins; managing redistribution collaboratively as needed when collection areas become full.

Staffing: Facilitated successful ACS staff meeting on September 24; provided updates on Sharepoint, October inventory project and updates. ACS Benjamin is working with ACSs Rebekah and Serina to improve desk training processes; hired three new CER staff; continued customer desk training for staff hired in July and August.

Teen Services Librarian Jenny Thurman reports:

Live Action Role Playing program at Twin Silo Park on September 17 was great fun! Teens searched for treasure and supplies, constructed a fortress and dragon to protect their treasure, and successfully fended off adventurers (played by the Teen Librarians and Dungeon Master Tori) in search of treasure.



Teen Council met at Harmony Library on September 7 from 5:30 at 7:30 pm. This was the first in person, in building Teen event since March 2020! 8 teen members prepped for the October Costume Workshop by discussing ideas, and becoming familiar with the portable heat presses.

Manager Currie Meyer attended the **Colorado Association of Libraries conference** in Westminster on September 10-11. Highlights included a preconference hosted by CSU's Martin Carcassian on neutrality

in public libraries, talking with a shelving vendor involved with CTL's teen area refresh, and learning about Connected Learning, a new trend in secondary education.

HARMONY LIBRARY

By Ken Draves

Harmony Library Refresh

Work on the new roof has commenced and will continue for a number of weeks. FRCC is fully funding and managing the project.

Business Services—Matt West

Activities:

- On 9/13 Professor Rob Mitchell and I taught Startup Smart in the Challenger Point Auditorium at FRCC.
- Very busy our local Small Business Week with meeting with entrepreneurs and attending events.
- Demographic training for city and county employees via Kevin Teller and myself on zoom.
- Research for Institute for Entrepreneurship on marketing strategy and density of small businesses in FoCo
- Many research projects: drones, designers, UX and UI, life coach, real estate photography and more
- Meetings on Digital Roots
- National Small Business Week virtual summit
- CSU Pivot program (two Saturdays)

Nonprofit Services Librarian---Elaine Burrit's report.

Continue to meet individually with nonprofit clients regarding their research requests and to fulfill their information needs. Provided individual training on searching in Foundation Directory Online to two clients.

Attended Funding Information Network training and several online webinars offered by Candid. Attended FIN quarterly regional meeting for updates and learning opportunities.

Met with Mishelle Baun from the Community Foundation of Northern Colorado and showed her the nonprofit meeting space and resources we have at the Harmony Library.

Ken and I were also invited to the Community Foundation office to meet their philanthropic services staff, who work closely with our local nonprofits. We shared what services the library district is offering to nonprofits, and we learned how they are serving nonprofits. We discussed ways in which we could share information and collaborate.

Attended evening donor reception for United Way and met their new CEO/President, Deirdre Sullivan.

Attended Workforce Symposium and learned about new trends in the workplace, leadership skills, and motivational skills.

OLD TOWN LIBRARY

By Eileen McCluskey

Programs and Services

- Computer classes are back in person and attended by grateful customers.
- Jace is leading the Spectrum book club at Poudre with a great first turnout for the school year.
- Kristen joined Africa for the Pride in the Park event. She and Karla also met with the Think Again consultants in support of ongoing EDI work.
- Rita, Angela and Deidre delivered some amazing displays for Banned Books Week and Hispanic Heritage Month.
- Moving is Learning is the theme of Deidre's Staying Active with Older Adults and Yoga Storytime in Library Park. The setting is so beautiful.
- Kevin Cook is back, live and in-person at OTL with a full-house, capacity adjusted for COVID
- Dr. Joseph Gersch's Blockchain and Bitcoin program was also full, with people asking to have him back before he even finished speaking. Check out [the recording](#)...
- Karla's community drum circle with our Fale friends was lit. It was a joyful evening.
- International Night also returned. People are so excited to be back at our adult in-person programs.
- [Book Fest](#) is coming and Meg is getting everything prepped. Start planning which sessions you want to attend. She also facilitated another awesome Know Your City program.
- VITA is wrapping up its in-person tax help, with most of their sessions full on Mondays. They have been committed to supporting people file their taxes during a difficult year. We are so grateful for these volunteers.
- OTL Study rooms are highly occupied during daytime hours.

Ongoing projects in support of the strategic plan

- OTL renovation awaiting City permit. Computer lab furniture will be installed Oct. 25-27. OTL roof replacement awaiting parts delivery, to be delivered between mid-Oct and mid-December.
- [Digital Roots](#) staff training was developed and delivered by Kristen. OTL has started registering customers in Northstar Digital.
- Staff Cache Sharepoint site continues to be built out and improved. Circulation page just came online.
- ESL Mentoring update. This service is growing while developing meaningful community connections and supporting ESL skills for learners.

Learners:

- 37 applicants / 28 eligible and/or completed application process
 - 17 active matched pairs
 - 7 in application / matching process
 - 4 started but on hold for time commitment reasons
- Mentors:
 - 53 applicants / 43 eligible or completed application/interview process
 - 17 matched
 - 12 in training phase
 - 7 available for matching
 - 7 trained but withdrew for personal reasons
 - Citizenship tutoring
 - Citizenship interviews
 - 2 applicants
 - 2 matched with tutors
 - 2 passed and sworn in as Citizens. Library staff have successfully supported others in passing exam and are not included in this number.

- Citizenship tutors
 - 2 trained tutors
 - 7 signed up for training
- This service is not advertised yet, only available via word of mouth and referrals.

Staffing

- Meg Schiel was hired to fill Ian's vacancy and we welcomed her as the new Adult Information Services Librarian. She will focus on adult programming.
- Coordinating sub hire and Library Assistant hire to replace Meg's vacancy.