

Poudre River Public Library District

August 2022 Report from the Executive Director

2022 ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS: Progress Report

1. CREATE A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

- Completed information gathering phase
- Began analysis and identified key themes from Community Conversations
- Scheduled and planned Strategic Planning Workshop for September 14

2. BEGIN IMPLEMENTING EDI RECOMMENDATIONS

- Incorporated EDI topics and training in Staff Day
- EDI Coordinator on board
- Received community survey data from Think Again consultants

3. STRENGTHEN INTERNAL CULTURE AND STAFF ENGAGEMENT

- Staff Day gathering hosted at Old Town Library on August 12. Learning Team coordinated a full day of engaging and fun sessions to bring staff together, reinforce our guiding principles, and develop staff competencies.

4. TURN OUTWARD AND ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

- Staff participated in the Youth Center Partnership meeting to discuss the Library's involvement in a teen center. Teens and adults alike are excited about the possibilities of Teen Librarians hosting programs, providing books and safe spaces for teens to be themselves.
- Staff went on a tour of the Larimer County Court to learn about the various programs and services they provide and explored areas of potential partnerships.
- The Library was highly visible and engaged with the community at two large events the weekend of August 26 – 27, FoCo Comic Con and Fort Collins Open Streets.

5. BECOME A HIGH-PERFORMING ORGANIZATION

- Harmony staff worked with FRCC Librarian Molly Thompson to offer general business database training to staff in the absence of a District business services librarian.
- Coordinated timeline for Outreach Van with up-fitter and Lightening e-motors.
- Continued conversations with City of Fort Collins regarding a possible joint-use facility in SE Fort Collins.
- Provided P-Card training to staff and supervisors to make sure all P-Card users were thoroughly trained and following best practices.

POUDRE RIVER PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT in the News

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

- “Dolly’s Imagination Library Comes to Larimer County,” *Loveland Reporter Herald*, <https://www.reporterherald.com/2022/08/10/dollys-imagination-library-comes-to-larimer-county/>
- “Dolly’s Imagination Library Comes to Larimer County,” *Biz West*, <https://bizwest.com/2022/08/10/dollys-imagination-library-comes-to-larimer-county/>
- “United Way brings Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to Estes Park, Larimer County,” *Estes Park Trail Gazette*, <https://www.eptail.com/2022/08/11/united-way-brings-dolly-partons-imagination-library-to-estes-park-larimer-county/>
- “Dolly’s Imagination Library Comes to Larimer County,” *Greeley Tribune*, <https://www.greeleytribune.com/2022/08/11/dollys-imagination-library-comes-to-larimer-county/>
- “United Way of Larimer County Brings Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library to Larimer County,” *North Forty News*, <https://northfortynews.com/category/business-education/united-way-of-larimer-county-brings-dolly-partons-imagination-library-to-larimer-county/>
- “A piece of Dolly Parton is coming to northern Colorado,” *K2 Radio (Wyoming)*, <https://k2radio.com/a-piece-of-dolly-parton-is-coming-to-northern-colorado/>
- “News from Around Our 50 States,” *USA Today*, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/50-states/2022/08/18/hybrid-coral-reefs-butterfly-petition-drawbridge-tragedy-news-around-states/50613275/>
- “Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library Comes to Larimer County,” *North Forty News*, <https://northfortynews.com/category/columns/dolly-partons-imagination-library-comes-to-larimer-county/>

SE Fort Collins Community Center

- “Go big or Go swim? What features should Fort Collins southeast community center offer?”, *Coloradoan*, <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/opinion/2022/08/05/what-features-should-fort-collins-southeast-community-center-offer/65392802007/>
- “What’s happening with Fort Collins’ southeast community center project? Here’s what we know,” *Coloradoan*, <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2022/08/04/fort-collins-southeast-community-center-pool-plan-update/65385677007/>

- “An indoor pool tops residents' wants for a SE Fort Collins community center, but will they get it?” *Coloradoan*,
<https://www.coloradoan.com/story/opinion/2022/08/12/indoor-pool-tops-wants-for-southeast-fort-collins-community-center/65400850007/>

Other

- “Founded in FoCo replaces Startup Week,” *Biz West*,
<https://bizwest.com/2022/08/09/founded-in-foco-replaces-startup-week/>

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS – Summer Reading Challenge

We had a total of **6,495** people register for Summer Reading Challenge this year, a **25% increase** from 2021 numbers. Altogether, participants read for **81,901 hours** and completed **39,100 learning activities**. Kids ages 5-12 (who made up 55% of all participants) read for **35,800 hours** and completed **18,628 learning activities**.

This summer was also the first time since 2019 that we were able to offer a full slate of summer programs. We offered **200 special summer programs** *in addition* to our standard, year-round offerings like storytimes and computer classes. Big hits included Friends and Family Night at Council Tree, ocean-themed Kid Zone programs at all locations, a "Take Me Away" beach-read book clubs for adults at Old Town, the Monday Outdoor Series at Old Town, and an ocean specimen tour with Colorado State University biology department. We also engaged with the community at a number of events, including Fort Collins' Pride festival, CSU Lagoon concert series, and Bike to Work day. We had over **6,000 people participate** in our special summer programs and events!

Customer stories and comments

"These performances, library incentives, and creative activities really make the library an exciting and accessible place for families. For years we've enjoyed the opportunities for affordable family outings that the library provides, and as a result we've felt engaged and more connected to our community. Thank you!"

From Katie: A family excitedly came up to the library booth at the CSU Lagoon concert. They shared that they had really enjoyed completing the Bingo activities because they gave them the opportunity to learn and grow together while exploring more of their city!

[Upon learning her child had won a prize package] "Yay! Julian will be so excited. Both my spouse and I grew up in Fort Collins and just recently moved back with our kids. This was such a cool program to do with our kids this summer. We had a blast completing the Bingo activities and even got to check out some new parks in the area to find one with a lake to read near water. Thanks!"

Harmony Highlights

Summer Reading Challenge continued through mid-August. Harmony staff prepared and presented outdoor storytimes on the FRCC campus just outside of the library. Customers and staff alike enjoy the outdoor setting and FRCC has been a great partner in supporting this program on campus from reserving the space for us and for working their lawn sprinklers and mowing around our programs.



Harmony staff offered school-age programming this summer which included hands-on fun in crafting, games, and coding and everything was centered around "all things oceans." Kids enjoyed learning about narwhals, other ocean animals, and the 1992 accident in which 29,000 rubber ducks were lost in the North Pacific. Library assistants also kept a passive, yet interactive, program table in the kids' area throughout the summer.

