

## February 2020 Report from the Executive Director

### ADMINISTRATION

*By David Slivken*

#### Coronavirus Disease 2019

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which has now been detected in 48 locations internationally, including cases in the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “[public health emergency of international concern](#)” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>, accessed February 26, 2020.)

The Poudre River Public Library District is revising our Pandemic Response Plan in response to threats posed by the COVID-19 virus as well as other highly infectious diseases with potential for pandemic. The District seeks a measured and responsible response to potential pandemic. These procedures represent the District’s commitment to provide library services to the public in the safest and most effective way possible during a period of pandemic illness, with public health and safety the primary concern and a goal of continuity of business operations insofar as is possible.

The local, national and international conditions of pandemic illness may change on a daily basis. The current situation regarding COVID-19 is dynamic and currently developing rapidly. The District’s response is subject to modification based on the best and most current information and shifting conditions. These procedures are therefore subject to change as the District identifies the most effective responses to the pandemic.

#### Poudre River Public Library District Academy

Registration began February 15<sup>th</sup> for the first Poudre River Public Library District Academy, which will meet for six consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. As of February 28, 19 residents (and, I must add HUGE library fans) have applied for the Academy.

#### Public Speaking

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, I appeared before the Downtown Development Authority Board to update them on our plans for the future. I discussed our Master Plan, Strategic Plan, and the opportunities and challenges as we move forward. I will be speaking soon to the City of Fort Collins Senior Board, the Cultural Services Board and the Larimer County Human and Economic Development leadership team.

## COMMUNICATIONS

*By Paula Watson-Lakamp*

- Completed monthly/weekly goals of Communication Plan
- Organized, managed and supervised all graphic design work for the District
- Worked with OrangeBoy on dashboard and Savannah messaging system
- Social media promotions and platforms including “The River’s Mouth” blog
- Worked with local and regional media on various stories
- Continued work on Strategic Plan Marketing strategies
- Planning new video series
- Planning 2020 Summer Reading Challenge – “Summer to Imagine” Registration begins May 20
- Gathering year end-statistical data for Communications and District Annual Reports
- Participated in Fort Collins Start up Week
- 2020 National Library Week – April 19-25
- 2020 Comic Con – August 29 & 30
- 2020 BookFest – October 16 & 17

## HUMAN RESOURCES

### Recruitment Report

*By Cynthia Langren*

- ❖ **New Postings**
  - *Substitute Library Assistant for Old Town Library*
  - *Communications & Development Manager in Administration, Webster House*
- ❖ **Postings in “On Hold” Status** (applicants currently being screened/interviewed)
  - *Customer Experience Representative*
  - *Library Assistant – Children’s Services – Community Services*
- ❖ **Hires**
  - Jillian Harrison started Feb 10 as *Library Assistant* at Council Tree Library
  - *Customer Experience Representatives*
    - Kim Markham started Feb 24 at Council Tree Library
- ❖ **Promotions/Location Changes**
  - Xochil Arellano promoted from *Assistant Circulation Supervisor* at Council Tree Library to *Library Assistant* at Old Town Library
- ❖ **Terms**
  - 1 Customer Experience Representative at Council Tree
  - 1 Customer Experience Representative at Old Town

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

By Johanna Ulloa Girón



### Inclusive

As part of Black History Month, Café de Olla Spanish Book Club, featured the book “Mi negro pasado” by Mexican author, Laura Esquivel. During the meeting, we discussed different subjects on racism, including Latin American beliefs about racial inequality, afro-descendant population in Latin America, discrimination, prejudice, and lack of representation.

After our meeting, the group had the opportunity to attend the vibrant performance of Ballet Folclórico Nacional de México at the Lincoln Center, which featured an abundance of traditional heritage and culture.

Members of the club expressed their gratitude to PRPLD for the opportunity to belong to a group that “brings richness to their lives”

### Curious

It was an afternoon at the movies for the Book Club and More for Mortals. Theater style treats and popcorn were provided as the group watched *Getting Grace*, a film about a teen’s unique approach to her upcoming death. Thank you to Leah Weatherman for commandeering the program with Mindy Rickard from Larimer Advanced Care Planning.

### Accountable

We hosted interviews for the Adult Library Assistant and Children’s Library Assistant. We have made offers to three people and two new members of the Community Services team will begin on March 9th.

Ken Draves and Johanna Ulloa Girón have participated and hosted several meetings with libraries, senior centers, and community members aiming at gaining information to increase the capacity to serve older adults in our community. After the initial assessment, the target date to hire and start providing services is June 2020.

Leah Weatherman’s highlight this month was providing eighteen bilingual or Spanish Storytimes out and about the district. From a special *If You Give a Moose a Muffin* Read with a Loved One breakfast at Putnam Elementary to a pajama party Storytime with the Boys & Girls Club, these Storytimes were a blast!



## COUNCIL TREE LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Currie Meyer

**Improved Children’s Space:** The conclusion of the year + children’s space refresh happened this month with the delivery of new seating and tables in the children’s area. TMC Furniture’s “Puddle” and “Zetty” seats and benches are comfortable for children and caregivers, and are colorful and durable too. New tables are clean, child-sized and sturdy. *Meet and Collaborate #1: Provide user-centered spaces that are welcoming and versatile.*



*Reimagine the Future #1: Explore options for existing facilities to meet (space) needs.*

### **Black History Month Hands-on Learning:** CTL Children’s

Librarian Amy Holzworth coordinated two interactive

activities for children and their caregivers. The first featured inventor Garrett Morgan, the inventor of the traffic light, and an opportunity to play with stickers and color. Children and caregivers also learned about significant Black people through biography guessing cards and a poster, encouraging everyone to “lead...like Harriet”, “sing...like Beyonce”, and “stand...like Nelson”. *Learn and Discover #2: Provide culturally-responsive programming and wide-ranging learning opportunities. Meet and Collaborate #6: Serve as a center for civic information and engagement.*



**Hellos and Goodbyes to Staff:** I hired Jillian Harrison to be our new half-time, classified Library Assistant. Jillian brings a wealth of experience from her roles as a leader in local charities and as a classroom paraprofessional at Linton Elementary. She has a wide range of reading tastes, and started a successful mom-daughter book club. CTL also said goodbye to long-time Circulation staff member Melody Adams, who was hired by Clearview Library District’s Outreach Department. *Reimagine the Future #3: Invest in staff development; #5: Maximize sustainable library operations.*



Amy arranged for **Certified Early Childhood Coach/EQIT** Facilitator and the Infant and Toddler Specialist for Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, Heather Soderberg to present to the **storytime staff** on February 24. She led a discussion about parent and child engagement and leveraging storytime skills for impact on early literacy. *Reimagine the Future #3: invest in staff development and build opportunities for meaningful engagement and collaboration.*

Currie and Amy attended the **Public Library Association Conference** in Nashville, February 25-29. We enjoyed a wide-range of programs and keynote speakers including several on diversity, equity and inclusion, staff development, leadership and trends in public libraries. *Reimagine the Future #3: Invest in staff development. #4 Develop more responsive services.*

## OLD TOWN LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

By Eileen McCluskey

The Old Town Library team is gearing up for 2020 with program planning, innovation grant work, the Lobby project, preparing to support the community with the Census, and a multitude of diverse programs delivered in February.

### **Learn and Discover**

The Lego Build Club Bridge Engineering program on Feb. 17 had a great turnout—too many for the room to hold. Great job Erin! The children’s area was packed during and after the program. During the week of Feb 17-21, the children’s area was BUSY with children and their caregivers connecting with resources and each other. Mornings in the children’s area at OTL is a hot spot for learning and discovering!

Karla delivered a sensory storytime and tour for Bacon Elem. K-5 group 15 kids and 15 adults. The group enjoyed the interactive play areas. OTL staff are observing storytimes at other NoCo libraries for fresh ideas and inspiration. Xochil and Erin visited Loveland and Greeley libraries. They are planning a visit to Boulder in order to inject fresh ideas and energy into OTL story times. Karla attended PLA Feb 26-29. She is returning with lots of inspiration, relevant, fresh ideas.

Monique supported a community member in passing her citizenship exam this month! Kristen’s coding club is going strong on Wednesday evenings. OTL hosted another Name Change Clinic, VITA is filling the community room on Mondays and Thursdays, and Kevin Cook keeps the Cookies coming. Deidre’s Yoga Storytime had little kids saying Om with their caregivers and creating mandalas. Eileen is working with Johanna to create a mentoring program for bilingual learning and adult literacy.

### **Meet and Collaborate**

Karen’s Old Town Library Book Club attracted 30 people. Ian has been working with Lesley at the Fort Collins Archive to get things in order so that we can begin to digitize the microfilm collection. Our plan is to spend March testing and preparing documentation before bringing volunteers on board at the beginning of April.

Ian worked with David and Eileen to prepare messaging and guidance for the library ahead of the 2020 Census. He has attended multiple City Census meetings and produced a document of talking points for all library staff for when the count starts in March.

Kristen facilitated the book discussion with the Spectrum Club at Poudre High School.

### **District-wide Operations and OTL Projects**

Circulation Staff have been finishing up training in their updated Customer Experience Representative positions. Customers are seeing the added benefit of a complete circulation service experience. The Adult New Collection has been reunited. Our new material in the Española and Large Print collections can now be found on the 1st floor with the rest of the new material.

The Media Mentors supported staff in completing the Tech Competencies training throughout the district, with instructor-led training at Harmony. Kristen is working with the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion committee to plan staff training around this important topic.



Eileen met with representatives from FCCAN to hear their concerns regarding several library policies. Eileen also served on a panel discussion at City Hall regarding Homelessness Services and Housing. She met with David Rout and others from Homeless Alliance to discuss the increase in disruptive activity at OTL. She then facilitated a Listening Session at the Murphy Center to discuss library services with their clients.

