

How'd We Do? August 2020

1. A community member shared concerns of library involvement with the local BIPOC alliance. Executive Director David Slivken and board President Becki Schultz shared the following response with the community member:

Concerning the program, "Showing up for Racial Justice: White Allyship and Action," the intent of this series is to have a more racially equitable community. This series honors the declarations from the City of Fort Collins, Larimer County, and the Health District of Northern Larimer County that local governments are committed to dismantling systems of oppression and racism in the pursuit of racial justice. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion is also a key area the Library District is supporting. Our Library District has an important role in ensuring our community members, especially those facing the greatest barriers, have access and opportunities. To do this, the Library District is being intentional in creating conditions for equity to flourish—in staff development, in collection development, in community outreach programs and digital initiatives.

For equity to thrive, it is important to have a discussion on the understanding of whiteness and the privilege and power behind it. BIPOC Alliances are groups of organizations across the country (colleges/universities, libraries, governments, nonprofits) that support improving relations with marginalized groups. This local BIPOC Alliance is not associated with the BIPOC Project.

The recently-completed series explored whiteness in social and racial justice movements and how to show up while working with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. There is no question there may have been difficult conversations with those in attendance, but these conversations are essential for the community to move forward. Each session averaged from 160-175 participants. This key performance indicator of keeping the level of attendance at this high number for all four sessions indicates it was very well received. City of Fort Collins Council Member Emily Gorgol attended all sessions and thanked the Library District for offering the series. Fort Collins Police Chief Jeff Svoboda was very interested in this series and was hoping to have several of his staff participate.

For those who have expressed concern on the intent of this program, the series may be watched on our YouTube channel. Session #1 may be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAWNeXUuuEg>. It is important the sessions be watched in order.

Sincerely, Becki Schultz, President, Poudre River Public Library District Board of Trustees

David E. Slivken, Executive Director, Poudre River Public Library District

2. A note of thanks, sent to Library Assistant Ludy Rueda in Community Services:

MP Martha Petty-Harris 3:45 PM
To: Rueda, Ludivina >

[EXTERNAL] Gracias

Ludy, no sabes cuanto te lo agradezco por escoger los libros para mi y los alumnos de Harris. Me has ayudado mucho. Muchas gracias,
Martha



Martha Petty
Harris Bilingual School

3. Say, I went to the Council Tree Library yesterday after work to get a book. It's the first time I was back in after you opened. Kudos to the staff for their safe practices and encouragement to customers to also be safe. Love the kids abacus to keep track of customers.

I sure missed going there, but I got a Kindle and now I can get books virtually, but nothing really beats holding a real book. Thank you!

4. Re: Great Service
Suggestion: I just wanted to thank Ian at the Old Town branch today. After he helped me find some great books, he ran outside just as I was leaving with another that was exactly what I was looking for. He obviously cares about helping patrons. Thank you!