

Poudre Libraries

January 2023 Report from the Executive Director

2023 ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

GOAL 1: Improve the Customer Experience in our Physical & Digital Spaces

- Added a laptop kiosk at Old Town Library
- Moved service desks at Harmony to improve wayfinding and enable customers to get assistance at their first point of contact
- Implemented Auto Renewals to make life easier for customers
- We are bringing our security services at Old Town library in-house, rather than using an outside security provider. Having our security staff serve as District employees helps us to better create a culture of safety and security to enhance our customers' experiences in the library. Al Alvarado is our new Security Supervisor, and we are in the process of hiring a second Security Specialist. Together they will provide a reliable and skilled security presence at Old Town every hour the facility is open.

GOAL 2: Expand Places Where People Connect with the Library

- Planned and participated in the MLK Jr. Day activities, including a clothing drive at each library, Day of Service volunteering, Community March, and Community Resource Fair. Dolores Mata and Ludy Rueda served as March Leaders representing the library.

GOAL 3: Develop & Expand Strategic Partnerships

- Applications for two new members of the Board of Trustees opened January 23. Printed and online submissions accepted through February 14, 2023.
- Created and distributed first Library District Development annual report highlighting donor and philanthropy activities from 2022 and launched monthly donor newsletter.
- Participated in two-day State of our Youth Conference convened by Poudre School District

GOAL 4: Build Opportunities for Staff Development & Engagement

- Gathered and assessed staff needs and interests in training and development
- Coordinated with City of Fort Collins to offer learning and development opportunities for Library leaders. The offerings are for any level of supervisor or manager, and will be especially good for new leaders.
- Facilitated three in-person and one virtual staff discussion to discuss 2023 Goals and Denison Culture Survey results.
- Hosted first new employee "welcome session" with Director as part of onboarding improvements

GOAL 5: Create & Implement Key Metrics and Tracking

- Reviewed data reporting options provided by OrangeBoy to create dashboard.
- Identified possible benchmark libraries to help determine key metrics and goals.

GOAL 6: Uphold Intellectual Freedom & Democracy

- Old Town staff met with Tova to discuss book challenges and information freedom

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Meth Contamination

In response to the media reports of several libraries in the area testing for meth contamination in their facilities, we reached out to the Larimer County Public Health Department for guidance regarding testing in our buildings. They do not recommend testing for methamphetamine contamination as a method of determining if the substance has been used in our facilities.

The risk to the public from brief or incidental exposure to surfaces in a public area is very low. The regulatory standards for cleaning and remediation are based on long-term exposures to areas where methamphetamine has been produced or consumed. If we do have reports of a confirmed incident they are available to consult on whether screening level testing should be completed. Please let your manager know if you or a customer has observed anyone using drugs or smoking in any of our buildings. We will continue to monitor the situation and will work with Larimer County Environmental Health Department for information and guidance.

Midtown Move

Our Collections department staff members select, order, catalog, and process the physical and digital materials we provide to our public. We are losing our lease on the space in midtown they currently occupy, so we are actively engaged in securing new, leased space for them. Fortunately, there are some spaces on the market currently that are promising, and we hope to have a new lease and new space secured soon.

Legal Case

The legal matter surrounding a former employee reached a conclusion on February 1. In early 2021, the Library launched an HR investigation to look into possible violations of library policies and procedures by a library employee. We provided the information collected during the internal investigation to the Fort Collins Police who subsequently worked with the Larimer County District Attorney's Office to bring forward legal charges.

We are grateful to the District Attorney's Office and the Fort Collins Police Department for their work on behalf of the Library and the community. Since the beginning of the legal process, the Library has focused on reaching an outcome that would recoup library funds and restore community trust. We are pleased to see the matter concluded, financial restitution paid, and the Library made whole.

Over the past year, we have worked to update our purchasing processes and strengthened internal controls and financial reviews. We believe these measures will help eliminate opportunities for this happening again.

Evie Arrival

I was honored to be one of the first passengers when Evie arrived in the District. While it will still be a couple of months until we are able to get Evie out into the community, it is wonderful to have her on our property, plugged, and getting set up with the materials and technology we'll be delivering across

the District. As we work to achieve our 2023 goal, Expand Places Where People Connect with the Library, this is a major new asset we have to help us reach populations who are not currently using the library or familiar with our services.



JANUARY MEDIA COVERAGE

DELIBERATIVE JOURNALISM PROJECT

- “Coloradoan Conversations brings new participants to opinion journalism,” *Coloradoan*, <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2023/01/08/fort-collins-coloradoan-2022-impact-on-drug-prices-elections-and-discourse/69782816007/>
- “The Deliberative Journalism Project is 1 year old. Join us to keep good information flowing,” *Coloradoan*, <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2023/01/31/northern-colorado-deliberative-journalism-project-update-is-planned/69858872007/>

MLK JR DAY

- “Fort Collins to honor Martin Luther King Jr. with annual march, other activities,” *Coloradoan*, <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/local/2023/01/12/fort-collins-martin-luther-king-jr-day-activities-annual-march-monday/69800507007/>
- “Get insights on how to bridge political divides at Fort Collins event Jan. 18,” *Coloradoan*, <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/opinion/2023/01/13/fort-collins-event-focuses-on-bridging-political-divides/69785888007/>

- “Fort Collins comes together: More than 1,500 participate in annual MLK Day march,” *Coloradoan*, <https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/local/2023/01/16/fort-collins-martin-luther-king-jr-day-march-draws-more-than-1500/69806110007/>
- “Legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. honored at community celebration,” *Source CSU*, <https://source.colostate.edu/legacy-of-martin-luther-king-jr-honored-at-community-celebration/>

FORT COLLINS BOOK FEST

- “Things to Do: Trail volunteers open house, nature talk and more to be held in Loveland,” *Reporter Herald*, <https://www.reporterherald.com/2023/01/25/trail-volunteers-open-house-nature-talk-and-more-to-be-held-in-loveland/>
- “Tuned Into NoCo,” *Townsquare Media*, <https://999thepoint.com/ixp/973/p/fort-collins-book-fest-will-kick-off-feb-1st/> (Podcast)
 - Radio Air Dates: 1/28 Saturday on Power 102.9 and Retro 102.5, and 1/29 Sunday on 99.9 The Point, 94.3 The X, and K99 99.1.
- “20 fun events in Greeley, Loveland, and around NoCo for all ages,” *Greeley Tribune*, <https://www.greeleytribune.com/2023/01/26/the-top-20-events-taking-place-in-greeley-loveland-and-around-noco-for-the-week-of-jan-28-feb-3-2023/>
- “Fort Collins Book Fest 2023 features CSU alumni and faculty,” *CSU Source*, <https://source.colostate.edu/fort-collins-book-fest-2023/>

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



District teen librarians hosted a Nailed It! –Valentine’s Edition program. Teens tested their skills and creativity by making Valentine themed treats inspired by Pinterest and TikTok.

HOW'D WE DO?

Town of Timnath Administrative Assistant Susan Bieber sent this message about our new, monthly storytime in Timnath:

Happy Saturday,

I just wanted to thank you all so much for allowing Timnath a taste of the library!! We are so excited to be hosting a story time each month, and so grateful to have someone as talented and engaging as Amy to facilitate it!

Yesterday went wonderfully – from my count we had 19 adults and 17 kidlets, and all had a great time! I am especially excited about the prospect of a book mobile visiting us in the springtime. There is so much potential here!!

Anyway, just wanted to say thanks, and hope you guys realize the impact you make! Have a great weekend! -Susan

Re: Thank you ILL and Prospector staff!

Suggestion: Just wanted to say THANK YOU SO MUCH to all the library workers who have been processing my ILL and Prospector requests. You all have found everything I've needed, even books that are fairly rare/unusual. I'm so deeply grateful to you for your expertise and hard work!

*Having free printing in the computer lab is the best thing the library has done. The people who are there to help are friendly, knowledgeable, and a great help in answering questions/solving problems. **Good job!***

Re: Library Questionnaire

Comment: I just finished filling out your recent Library questionnaire. The Library does not need to change. It is already near perfect. Any material that the Library does not have, can be requested and received within 10 days. The Library has lots of work space and 200 pages of free printing is a more than generous. Before I retired I was a consulting civil engineer. The Library would obtain even the most odd technical publication. One water quality book came from the TCU Library in Fort Worth. Please, just maintain what you are doing!

Received at Harmony Library: I would like to thank the library staff for being very helpful. I have been using the computers to apply for employment. This process was stressful and would have been even more so, however the staff was always able to extend my computer time. This was crucial to my success in obtaining a job that I was very interested in. THANK YOU!

Subject: Old Town Library

Diane,

Did you decide to check for possible meth contamination at the Old Town Library? Since you sent me an email stating you were "looking into" this, I would like to know your decision regarding the health and safety of library patrons.

Given the arrests at this library for possession methamphetamine and possess drug paraphernalia, please be proactive.

Please get back to me.

*Thank you,
Pam*

(RESPONSE) Pam,

I was able to consult with Larimer County Public Health Director last week. They do not recommend testing for methamphetamine contamination as a method of determining if the substance has been used in our facilities.

The risk to the public from brief or incidental exposure to surfaces in a public area is very low. The regulatory standards for cleaning and remediation are based on long-term exposures to areas where methamphetamine has been produced or consumed.

We will continue to work with the County Health Department to evaluate the situation and follow their recommendations.

Sincerely,

Diane

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] Old Town Library
Diane,

Thank you for getting back to me today regarding testing for possible methamphetamine contamination at the Old Town Library. Frankly, there is no need to test to determine if this substance has been used inside the Old Town Library. Your librarians (past and present), patrons, and Police can confirm that use.

I do not find this response satisfactory in terms of your concerns for patron and staff health and safety. Other Colorado Libraries closed down after testing for meth contamination. In some cases, the levels of meth contamination reportedly exceeded state thresholds in restrooms. Meth residue was also detected in air ducts and on surfaces.

I again ask you to provide the number of incidents, suspensions, and arrests at the Old Town Library since September of 2022. According to the Crime Map, there were 17 (seventeen) Warrants, 16 City Violations, 10 Transient and 10 Trespassing Police Services Incidents on only the 200 Blk Peterson St and the 300 Blk E Oak St between September 1st and today. That total of 137 Incidents in this time frame on these two blocks also included a stabbing, a robbery, and a weapons violation Incident. I mention these only to reference the health safety issues neighbors and patrons have reported.

Please reconsider proactive testing for meth contamination inside the Old Town Library.

*Sincerely,
Pam*

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Re: [EXTERNAL] Old Town Library

(Response) Pam, thank you for your email and you continuing concern for safety and security at the Old Town Library.

Regarding testing at Old Town form methamphetamine, the Library District sought public health guidance from our Larimer County Health Department, as is our practice when we have questions regarding public health and safety. As I shared with you previously, their recommendation is that we not proceed with testing at this time, as the public health risk posed by any residues from potential past use is very low. Based on that guidance we do not plan to test currently. We will continue to monitor our facility and to consult with the health department if we have incidents in the future, to determine if testing is warranted.

While some Colorado public libraries have tested, and subsequently closed for further testing or cleaning, the situations at each library is different, and decisions regarding the advisability of and need for testing is a decision libraries make together with their local health authorities.

Regarding your request for incidents, suspensions and arrests at the library, our Old Town Library Manager will share the current and comparative statistics regarding incidents at Old Town library, I'll share those with you when I receive them, probably late this week or early next.

Sincerely,

Diane