

Lift-Off with LSTA! Presentations from around the State

- **Yuma County Library District**
Lisa Mendez, Library Director
Ashley Jones, Deputy Library Director
Elia Juarez, Youth and Teen Services Librarian
- **Snowflake-Taylor Public Library**
Ella McAdams, Director
- **Prescott Valley Public Library**
Michele Hjorting, Lead Librarian - Adult Services
- **Pima County Public Library**
Linde Furman, Manager - Customer Experience, Programs, Community Partnerships
Em DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Administrator
- **Huachuca City Public Library**
Stephanie Fulton, Director of Library and Community Services
- **Glendale Public Library**
Kiyoshi Parke, Library Operations Supervisor
- **East Flagstaff Community Library**
Felicia Fiedler, Training & Volunteer Librarian
- **Beaver Creek School/Public Library**
Elizabeth Franklin, Library Coordinator
- **Apache Junction Public Library**
Stephanie Oplinger, Senior Library Assistant, Youth & Teen Services
Megan Carbiener, Outreach Supervisory Librarian

Library: Yuma County Library District
Project: Memory Time Project
Grant Amount: \$6,684
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of the project was to increase local resources and develop memory kits for adult individuals of diverse, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds and limited skills due to dementia or other cognitive impairment and their caregivers. The Memory Café (program in-house) included themed programs with crafts and items to encourage conversation and stimulate memory. Memory kits were available for checkout that included books, manipulatives, games, and activity ideas.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>100% of participants were satisfied with the program and most likely to return.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>Communication with the community was useful to make necessary changes and additions to the program and kits.</p> <p>More outreach is needed to ensure the community is aware of the resources.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Continue to work with community partners and update items for kits and expand Memory Café as needed.</p>

Library: Yuma County Library District
Project: Digitizing Yuma’s Collection of Materials
Grant Amount: \$13,405
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of the project was to provide a digital film viewer for the public to view, save, e-mail, and print microfilm and microfiche images. Funds were used to purchase an ST ViewScan 4 Digital Microfilm Scanner System. Community members benefited because the upgraded device allowed community members to convert their personal data to digital formats.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>Positive feedback from patrons and staff confirmed that the updated microfiche device was necessary for Yuma County Library District.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>The machine was a necessary addition due to the user-friendly hardware/software that allowed patrons to learn and work on personal projects at their own pace.</p> <p>When scanning services are needed, people looking to convert microfiche and microfilm to digital depend on the library to provide the necessary resources that will help preserve their information and memories.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Continue to collaborate with local organizations to ensure that we reach as many parts as possible of the community who can use the services.</p>

Library: Yuma County Library District
Project: Teen Connections
Grant Amount: \$3,500
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of the project was to support career and college readiness through a library internship for teens.</p> <p>Funds were used to pay the selected intern after completing assigned goals, tasks, and projects during the internship. The intern benefited from the program because they gained real-world experience that offered insight into what it takes to work in a library setting while building a sense of community and exploring their creativity.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>A significant finding was the positive feedback from the intern and the community. The intern mentioned that their overall experience was good, learned skills such as shelving, using the Dewey decimal system, new technology, display decoration, and planning programs.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>As the needs of communities and the workforce change, youth must have the knowledge and skills to pursue a career or be college ready. We realized there is a significant need for teen volunteer positions within our community.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to limited volunteer positions and available staff, scheduling conflicts can limit the interns/ volunteer positions we can offer in our rural area.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Phase II would include hiring a teen volunteer to help out at another branch.</p>

Library: Snowflake-Taylor Public Library
Project: Personal History Preservation
Grant Amount: \$4,000
Project Description: The aim of this project was to assist community members in preserving their personal histories by providing equipment and training.
Major Findings: Over 70% of those surveyed shared their enthusiasm for the project.
Lessons Learned: The library program did not attract minors. The program will need to be adjusted to reach younger patrons.
Next Steps: The library will continue to provide training for and access to the digitization equipment. Volunteers will offer assistance.

Library: Snowflake-Taylor Public Library
Project: Assisted Living Center Outreach
Grant Amount: \$4,000
Project Description: The goal of this project was to provide accessible library materials and enrichment activities for residents of local assisted living centers.
Major Findings: This project was intended for in-resident facilities, but by opening it up to homebound patrons, it increased the impact.
Lessons Learned: It takes time to learn the specific tastes of the individuals in both library materials and activities.
Next Steps: The library will continue monthly visits to the in-resident facilities and will prepare materials for home-bound patrons on a quarterly basis.

Library: Prescott Valley Public Library
Project: Spark a Conversation! Memory Kits To Go
Grant Amount: \$4,000
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of this project was to create themed memory kits that support caregivers, family members, and those living with Alzheimer’s disease, memory loss, or other cognitive impairment. Each kit is specifically designed to spark memories, create conversations, and provide positive and engaging interactions.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>100% of participants learned something new, found value in the kits, and will participate in similar programs or will check out another kit.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>Marketing the kits in various ways (especially outreach and in-house programs) is very important to get the word out about the program.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>The library will continue to host outreach events at senior living/memory care facilities to help raise awareness and importance of the Memory Kits.</p>

Library: Pima County Public Library
Project: Trauma Informed Services
Grant Amount: \$67,485
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal was to create a meaningful and effective trauma informed care model to support staff in processing and healing from traumatic or intensely stressful events within our workplace. Our system’s first Trauma Informed Care team was formed, consisting of staff in a variety of positions with a variety of personal and professional experiences. Funds were used to hire a consultant with expertise in the trauma informed field, contract with local professionals for curated trainings, provide mental health support, and create an extensive toolkit for staff. We sought to establish a long-term and evolving culture of care and support. Staff participated in focus groups and anonymous surveys to provide feedback on their needs, which drove decision-making.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>About half or more of PCPL staff (around 400 employees) actively and continuously engaged in this initiative – through surveys, focus groups, trainings, EAP sessions, etc. 75% of leaders attending trauma informed care leadership training stated their intention to put new knowledge into practice.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff well-being should be valued equally with that of our community members. ▪ Organizational healing is not easy, but it’s worth it. ▪ Training is fundamental - staff need knowledge, tools, and support in implementation. ▪ Mental health support is critical. ▪ Leadership must model; leadership buy-in is essential. ▪ Trauma informed care is a forever process and commitment.
<p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continued advocacy with our administration and Pima County ● Continued evolution of the toolkit ● Mental health providers hired on contract ● Evaluation of library-specific structures that may inhibit implementation of trauma informed practices

Library: Huachuca City Public Library
Project: Making Connections in Huachuca City
Grant Amount: \$4,000
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of this project was to continue our Hotspot Lending Program and close the digital divide in our community.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We had a 67% usage increase over 2021/2022. • We went from 24 to 32 devices. • Reopening after COVID, we were able to reach new residents who didn't know about our hotspot program.
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy extra power cords. • Pencil boxes make great checkout boxes. • Have the customer service phone number of your service provider in the box so patrons can call them to complain about slow data instead of you. <p>True Weird Story: A hotspot was returned by a patron's roommate (who had also used the hotspot and said it was running hot) and inside were two new and unopened alcohol wipes! We never found out why!?!)</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Look for funding opportunities to be able continue this very valuable library service.</p>

Library: Huachuca City Public Library
Project: Bringing Library Services to the Underserved in Huachuca City
Grant Amount: \$4,000
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of this project was to expand library services outside of the physical library one day a week at our Community Center in lower Huachuca City, where most of our underserved residents live. A small collection of library materials as well as laptops and a printer were purchased.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>Residents have benefited because they do not have to struggle to find transportation to the library.</p> <p>Ten town residents came and were very satisfied with the availability of books, DVDs, and computer services.</p> <p>Two patrons signed up for a library card.</p> <p>One patron who does not have transportation was able to scan and submit paperwork for social security benefits.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>Make sure that all other town departments understand the scope and timeline of the project. Create a backup plan if one department is not able to complete their part of the project on time.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Look for funding opportunities to be able to open more days.</p>

Library: Glendale Public Library
Project: My (Money & You) Glendale
Grant Amount: \$4,000
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of the project was to empower Glendale Library patrons by providing financial literacy resource materials and programs to equip them with the necessary tools for building self-sufficiency. Funds were used to purchase these materials in both print and digital formats to target basic entry level financial literacy topics in both English and Spanish.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest circ - Clever Girl Finance vs all items & 47% more than the printed format of the same title. • Main Library accounted for 2/3 of all circ (after a second display was added to Main halfway thru the grant).
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not limit the titles to a single format. • House all of the collection at one singular branch, or solely focus on business program offerings.
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>The focus moving forward will be expanding our programs from business to financial literacy for kids and tweens (ages 3-12).</p>

Library: Glendale Public Library
Project: Let's Talk about Diversity Literacy Kits
Grant Amount: \$4,000
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of the project was to support families in their learning of diversity concepts by encouraging conversations and providing dialogue opportunities with literature kits.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>Created 24 Literacy Kits for Babies/Toddlers, Preschool, and Elementary-aged children. Each kit had the following items: a set of picture books highlighting Asian American, African American, Latin American, and Native American cultures and at least one general diverse title, toy manipulatives to further the discussions outside of reading, discussion guides for each title, and a caregiver guide with suggestions and tips.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>The library created the Tough Topics literacy kit to explore some of the painful racial occurrences in U.S. History. This allowed the library to focus on celebration and pride in the cultures portrayed in the kits for the three age groups, but still offered something for the patrons who were looking for titles to address race relations specifically.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Expanding the collection to include World Religions, Cooking, Holidays, and LGBTQIA+ topics.</p>

Library: Glendale Public Library

Project: Glendale's 100 Year Digitization Collaboration

Grant Amount: \$16,355

Project Description:

The goal of this project was to celebrate and preserve the history of the Glendale Public Library's 100 Years as a community resource. Funds were used to purchase equipment to digitize and display photos and foundational documents from the Glendale Public Library. Funds were also used to pay educational presenters to inform the community about life in Arizona and the Nation over the last 100 years. Community members benefitted by having access to a preserved archive of Glendale's History and by learning about the history of the country and region.

Major Findings:

- 323 items digitized.
- 150 currently uploaded to Arizona Memory Project.
- 89% of participants "learned or tried something new."
- 84 % of participants were interested in learning more about the subjects.
- 90% of participants planned to try the featured activity or attend a similar event in the future.
- 85% of participants were more likely to use the resources and services provided by the library after attending a program.

Lessons Learned:

- Communicate clearly with partners about expectations.
- Systemic Programming (repeating programs across branches) is not successful in Glendale.
- Programming is a major driver of traffic to the library.
- Hands-on adult programs (crafts) are much appreciated by our community.
- Weekend afternoon cultural or multi-generational programming is also much appreciated by library patrons.

Library: Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library
Project: All-Staff Training Day
Grant Amount: \$4,000
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of the project was to provide training for all levels and locations of Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library staff and county affiliates by providing a day set aside to participate in training instead of desk tasks. Funds were used to provide means for county staff to come to Flagstaff and to pay presenters for the training.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>The average attendance for past library trainings has been about 5-10 staff members at best. However, when given the opportunity and time, 52 staff members attended an entire day of training. Most library staff work at a public service desk and have few opportunities to go to or even watch a training. When there is a chance for the library to close and staff to focus on learning and improvement, then staff will take advantage of the opportunity. There were staff members that did not understand what the other departments do or even who worked in them. This day of training allowed staff time to get to know their co-workers, community, and choose a topic to learn more about.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>The presenter had a lot of experience presenting to large groups. Having someone who has experience presenting and training staff is extremely important.</p> <p>Providing options was both beneficial and also to our detriment. It allowed people to find topics that pertained to their positions, but it also forced people to choose what to prioritize. There was also a request for some presentations to be longer or shorter. The key is to find the balance and understand your topics and audience well.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>It is hoped that the library can close once a year for an All-Staff Training Day, even if it is not as extensive in its offerings as it was with this grant. It will be requested yearly, but unlikely to continue past the reporting period.</p>

Library: Beaver Creek School/Public Library
Project: Eureka Lab Coding Club
Grant Amount: \$10,800
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The Eureka Lab coding and robotics program Level 1 brought to our community opportunities to learn how to code, use advanced technologies, and receive instruction on digital resources. Funds were used to purchase the Kids First coding and robot program, iPads, a Smartboard, and a portable visualizer (digital document camera for instruction), LEGOs, replacement DASH robots, and chargers to extend the life of the program.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <p>100% of the participants enjoyed the program and asked for future programs. Classroom observation indicates that 100% of the participants mastered the robotics remote manual operation of the robots. About 40% of the students went from manual direction of robots to completely coding the robot's activities. The advanced students mentored their peers and were able to instruct them in how to problem solve, enhancing learning opportunities for all.</p>
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <p>The learning curve for coding, robotics, and programming including set up and implementation for this type of project is significant.</p> <p>Start with a small group and one platform to ensure success and satisfaction.</p>
<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>Create a web-based Eureka Lab Coding and Robotics Level 1 Dash curriculum that will be reproducible in other libraries and available to teachers and students on the web.</p> <p>Offer STEAM play workshops quarterly using equipment acquired by this project.</p> <p>Offer the Kids First Coding and Robotics PB & J Kits (purchased by this LSTA grant) to a 2nd grade classroom at Beaver Creek School.</p> <p>Host an Advanced Level 2 Coding and Robotics 3-D Printer workshop. This is made possible by the 100% satisfaction with the Eureka Lab Coding and Robotics program, and because of an offer of volunteer assistance from one of our participant's grandparents who is enthusiastic about 3-D Printing!</p>

Library: Apache Junction Public Library

Project: Teen Connections Internship Program

Grant Amount: \$3,500

Project Description:

This project provided an opportunity for a paid internship to a teen in our community. The goal was for the teen intern to learn leadership skills, strong work ethics and how to develop interpersonal relationships.

Major Findings:

Our Teen Intern was a huge asset to our summer reading program.

- Worked at the Youth Desk
- Teen volunteer leader
- Assisted with programs
- Developed & coordinated a community-based program
- Other projects and tasks

Lessons Learned:

- Teens are very capable when given the opportunity and with guidance by an enthusiastic mentor!
- Teens are busy, so you must be flexible with your schedule.

Library: Apache Junction Public Library
Project: Bookmobile Renovation
Grant Amount: \$30,423
<p>Project Description:</p> <p>The goal of this project was to provide equitable library services to all people, including older adults, children, and library non-users due to homelessness, disability, limited literacy skills, and lack of transportation or awareness of our existing library services.</p>
<p>Major Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased library awareness & visibility • Increased assistance & depth of remote services • 90 new library cards & over 800 people served • Users sought out library cards, books, interactive experiences, & STEAM activities • Most Popular Materials: Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, & Children’s Picture Books
<p>Lessons Learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Took longer than predicted • Marketing was a challenge & a must • Popularity grew w/ time & exposure • Constant evolution & flexibility
<p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More marketing • Curated materials • Monthly route expansion • Specialized programming • More staff & department growth <p>Interest and demand for the Mobile Library has been proven by its popularity throughout the Apache Junction community. The project will continue with its monthly route, attendance at specialty fairs and festivals, and much more!</p>

What's YOUR next project? Could you fund it with LSTA?

The Arizona State Library will use LSTA funds for projects that support:

- Information Preservation and Access
- Informal Education
- Institutional Improvements
- Inclusive Communities

Important Dates and Deadlines

March 8, 2024	2024 LSTA application and certification deadline
May 3, 2024	Grant awards announced
May 17, 2024	Earliest date that grant funds may be requested
May 17, 2024	Grant recipients' workshop
August 8, 2025	2024 LSTA projects completed; funds fully encumbered
September 5, 2025	2024 LSTA final reports due; funds fully expended

Go to <https://azlibrary.gov/libdev/funding/lsta> for more information!