



Library Board Community Services

Date: 09/23/2025
To: Library Board
From: Courtney Allen, Management Analyst
Subject: **Library Manager's Report: June-August 2025**

Overview

Summer 2025 is officially behind us with much success for Chandler Public Library and its staff. From our recently installed book locker at TRC, renovations at Hamilton Library, and the delivery of the Chandler Discovery Library, we've been incredibly busy over the last few months. Patrons can now request items on hold via the catalog and request pick-up at Tumbleweed Recreation Center, which is also the site of the City's newest recreation expansion and pickleball facility. Our courier, Luis, fills and empties the locker Mondays through Fridays on the daily route between the branches.

In partnership with the larger Community Services department, a Recreation and Library Master Plan is being developed, with Berry Dunn selected as the consultant for the project. Library Administration will be working closely with the Recreation team to create a vision for the future of these important services for Chandler residents. This plan will come together in the coming months, with significant community engagement and input.

Staff attended the International Public Library Fundraising conference, the American Library Association conference and the National Recreation and Park Association conference this year, always pursuing new ideas and professional development to better Chandler Public Library. We all appreciate the opportunity to grow professionally at these events.

Branch Updates

Basha Branch

- The Summer Reading Challenge was a blast! Basha saw a 6% increase in SRC finishers this year. Great work by our staff & teen volunteers!
- We've had some staffing changes, but as of September 2nd, we are back to being fully staffed!
- We're making some changes to our youth area layout.
 - Introduced new manipulatives aimed at early childhood development.
 - Rearranged some furniture for a more open feel.
 - Implemented a new display area for STEAM based books.
- Our Puzzle Swap program continues to grow, and multiple valley libraries are taking a page out of our book and starting their own. People seem to love it!
- Basha Afterschool Hangout, an afterschool program for teens and tweens, soft launches on September 2. Activity kits will be placed in rolling bins throughout the building. Some of the various kits include crafts, LEGO sets, games, teen coloring pages, and pop culture trivia. Examples of crafts include lanyard keychains, glass magnets, mini collages, friendship bracelets, origami kits, duct tape wallets, and pom pom keychains, just to name a few!
- The Writer in Residence program at Basha Library is going wonderfully with Author Hailey Alcaraz! She's been inspiring and engaging our community through workshops, one-on-one sessions, and creative events that are sparking excitement around writing.
- We hosted Basha's academic decathlon team for a month as they prepared for the international event in China. They ended up getting 1st place honors, as well as several other awards during the event. Please read the amazing story here. [International Academic Decathlon](#)
- After school continues to be busy, with more kids in the building than ever.

Downtown Branch

- Kevin Bingham has been promoted to a full-time Municipal Security Officer. He has been tremendously helpful in handling the wide range of situations we encounter at the library, always approaching them with calmness and care.
- We are also pleased to welcome Kevin Storey as our new part-time Library Specialist in Youth Services.
- In partnership with CUSD, Brittany Parkhouse and the youth team provided free summer lunches to children and young adults under the age of 18 throughout June. The lunches were served in The Makery, where Brittany also organized activities and crafts for the kids to enjoy alongside their meal.
- Heat Relief efforts at the Downtown Library have been successful this year. We have handed out nearly 600 bottles of water since May 1, along with electrolytes and snacks donated by the city's DEI office.

Hamilton Branch

- **Progress on Renovation:** We are one month into our renovation project. Construction is well underway, and significant progress has been made.
- **Construction Schedule:** The demolition phase was completed overnight, but for the past three weeks, the work has shifted to daytime hours. While the noise can be disruptive and the temporary walls enclosing the three workspaces take up a considerable amount of space, we are happy to report that public and student access to books, computers, and other library services remain unaffected. Although, after school it can get a little crowded.
- **Current Phase:** The team is currently focused on building new walls, with plans to start taping and drywalling soon. We are on track to meet a mid to late October completion date for this phase of the renovation.
- **New Spaces:**
 - New circulation and work area, with a new reference desk.
 - Program room that was storage will now be usable programming space.
 - Four study rooms
- **Library Space Redesign:** To make the most of the updated space, we are working closely with a professional library designer. They are helping us redesign the open spaces and plan the best arrangement for moving and organizing the books and other library resources in the new layout.

We're thrilled with the progress and look forward to sharing more updates as we approach our projected completion timeline!

Sunset Branch

- Sunset Library staff had an amazing Summer Reading season with many well-attended special programs as well as all our regular programs. With the help of dozens of teen volunteers, we experienced record-breaking Summer Reading sign-ups and completions!
- We celebrated the hard work of summer with a pizza party for all staff.
- We continue to host ongoing Friends of Chandler Library book sales. Our recent Movies, Music, and More sale was very successful!
- We are gearing up for the fall planting season with new seeds for the Seed Library. More than a dozen vendors are scheduled to attend the Seed Swap.

Outreach

- Our new mobile branch, the Discovery Library, arrived on August 7th. Fleet Services will keep it until it is thoroughly inspected, insured, and registered.
- There are a couple of minor mechanical issues that need to be fixed by the vendor before staff can begin driver training.
- The plan is to start making regular, scheduled stops in October with a focus on underserved areas, senior centers, schools, and community events.

Outreach Statistics

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Outreach Events Held	155
Community Members Engaged	11,500
New Library Cards Issued	601

Collections and Statistics

Active Cardholders

June 1, 2025	73,026
July 1, 2025	73,531
August 1, 2025	73,908
September 1, 2025	73,997

Physical Item Checkouts

May 2025	107,096
June 2025	123,8285
July 2025	119,474
August 2025	114,915

CloudLibrary Checkouts

May 2025	15,244
June 2025	23,214
July 2025	23,670
August 2025	23,055

MCLD MAX Usage

May 2025	172 Borrowed, 172 Loaned 1.02 L/B
June 2025	206 Borrowed, 122 Loaned 0.59 L/B
July 2025	192 Borrowed, 169 Loaned 0.88 L/B
August 2025	240 Borrowed, 189 Loaned 0.79 L/B

Programming

- We held approximately 5,500 programs and engaged with over 132,000 people who attended programs in the library and at outreach in FY 24/25.
- Summer Reading Challenge, June-July 2025
 - Nearly 13,500 participants (almost 1,000 more than 2024)
 - Nearly 7,500 finishers, which was a 55% finish rate.
 - Overall, the Maricopa County Reads program had just over 105,000 participants, with a 50% finish rate

- Ahead of us in the rankings around the County:
 - Phoenix Public Library (18 libraries) with 25,528 participants
 - Maricopa County Library District (14 libraries) with 19,300 participants
- A look at our participants:
 - 38% Kids
 - 37% Adults (!!)
 - 15% Teens
 - 10% Pre-readers
- Over the summer we held over 600 programs with over 20,000 attendees.

Coming in Fall

- Storytimes, STEAM programs and other ongoing Youth programs return September 1 and will run through December 1, then take a break for the month of December.
- Writer in Residence series continues at Basha and Downtown Libraries, through October 19. Author Hailey Alcaraz will continue one-on-one writing consultation sessions as well as workshops on creating your best writing space, writing query letters, and social media/online presence best practices for authors.
- Chandler Contigo, the City's annual Hispanic heritage programming runs through Mid-October. Visit [Chandler Contigo](#) for more information.
- Citizenship Workshops will begin September 2 and will run for nine weeks.
- Healthy Table: U of A nationally certified nutrition six-week course @ Sunset beginning October 6. [Healthy Table](#)
- Chandlers Water Conservation department is offering water-wise workshops at Downtown and Sunset. [Water-Wise Workshops](#).
- For more fall library programming, please visit [Fall Library Programs](#). You can also view easy-to-read programming calendars. [Program Calendars](#)

Literacy Programs:

- Talk Time: 59 sessions were held in June/July/August, with 455 total attendance.
- Small Group: With the support of The Friends, we purchased new books for the Adult Literacy program. The volunteers were trained and a new curriculum was implemented. New groups will start with books the week of September 2.
- Summer Story School: In partnership with Make Way for Books, the Summer Story School was offered four days a week during June. It was well-attended, and they gave away 134 books to 12 families.
- Fall Story School: In partnership with Make Way for Books, two groups started at the Downtown Library on August 19. It will continue twice a week, through September 25.

Information Technology

- The library is in the process of replacing 350 public computers, with orders already placed and installation expected to begin in October.
- The first CPL Holds Locker was installed at the Tumbleweed Recreation Center in July and started fulfilling patron holds in August.

Friends of the Chandler Library

- Friends of Library donated \$100,000 this fiscal year in support of Chandler Public Library.
 - Fundraising book and media sales were held over the summer.
 - The Library's Discovery Library, funded in part by Friends of Chandler Public Library, has arrived.
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