

**Executive Director's Report
August/September 2009
Paula J. Miller, Executive Director**

COLLECTION, SERVICES, PROGRAMS, and COMMUNITY RELATIONS

USAGE: Items in PPLD's collection have been borrowed 6,281,967 times so far this year, an increase of 7% over last year's circulation level at this time. The largest increases are at Old Colorado City (20%), East (13%), and Briargate (13%). Self-check equipment in PPLD facilities helps staff cope with these increased workloads: Branch locations with three or more machines circulate between 78% and 85% of material on self-checks.

There were approximately 460,000 hits to the PPLD website during August and September 2009. The total number of patron PC sessions totaled over 38,000 in September, and PPLD laptops were borrowed over 6,000 times during August and September. Circulation of laptops now approximates 3,000 every month.

MATERIALS: Two 'Requests for Reconsideration' were received this month – the book, The Fall of Freddie the Leaf (Leo Buscaglia), and the DVD, "Harsh Times." Both are currently under review by staff review teams. Collection Management staff projects that PPLD's 2009 turnover rate will be 9.0, a significant increase from 8.1 in 2008.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: PPLD meeting room spaces were in use 3,400 hours during August and September -- nearly 1,300 public reservations were accommodated. Access to two electronic databases were added – "Global Issues in Context" and "19th Century U.S. Newspapers." All Pikes Peak Reads programs and events are occurring throughout the District and El Paso County this month. NPR's StoryCorps vehicle was parked in front of Penrose Library from September 21 through October 19, collecting stories from residents. PPLD staff participated in the National Writing Gallery project, contributing short essays on words that have changed their lives: The URL is:

PARTNERSHIPS: "Empowered Passion," a collaborative exhibit with The Greenberg Center, that celebrates movers and shakers in the Pikes Peak Region, was a success: Both historical and current individuals in the Region were featured. Numerous other collaborative efforts occurred over the last few months as well, including CONO, Partners in Philanthropy, World Affairs Council, and the Better Business Bureau.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

TECHNOLOGY: Envisionware, PPLD's software for PC print management, was upgraded District-wide this month. The Technology Planning Team completed a three-year Technology Plan, which is required to be updated annually in order for the District to apply for e-rate funds. Discussions are underway with Falcon Broadband to provide fiber access at High Prairie. Work continues on the redesign of PPLD's website. PPLD now has over 800 followers on Twitter.

FACILITIES AND SECURITY: Groundbreaking for the High Prairie Branch is scheduled for November 12 at 11:30am. Staff and the Board Facilities Committee continue to research and cultivate possibilities for sites for a new Monument Library. The landscaping for Old Colorado City Branch (Phase III of the renovation project) was completed. Asphalt repairs at East and Penrose were scheduled, including some work on East's auxiliary parking lot. An RFP for janitorial services for 2010 was recently released. In addition to coordinating these major projects, Facilities staff completed 195 work orders, 132 routine maintenance visits to branches, and 385 meeting room setups. Though attendance and usage is higher this year, security

statistics indicate that the number of security incidents has not gone up, year-to-date. August and September, however, were difficult months, as plants were stolen from Penrose' newly installed landscaped area on Cascade, and two laptops were stolen (one has been recovered).

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

OPERATING BUDGET: With 75% of the fiscal year completed, PPLD has collected 95% of total adjusted budgeted revenue for 2009. Expenditures are at 62% of budget to date. A mid-year budget resolution for a few fund transfers will be presented to the Board in October and voted on in December. The 2010 budget proposal was sent to the Board by the October 15 deadline and will also be voted on at the December Board meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT: A proclamation was signed by Mayor Lionel Rivera proclaiming October 18-24, 2009 as Friends of Libraries Week in Colorado Springs. Friends hosted a reception for Paula Poundstone before her performance at Pikes Peak Center: She is this year's national spokesperson for ALA's Friends and Trustees section and is an avid supporter of libraries. Amended Bylaws were recently adopted, and a Branch Friends Handbook was approved. The Friends Board also approved supporting StaffO's proposed publication of a literary cookbook.

PPLD FOUNDATION: Donations for High Prairie now total approximately \$24,000, and an El Paso County Community Block Development Grant for \$15,000 was recently awarded to this project. PPLD and Foundation staff continue to watch for development of a second round of ARRA technology funding. The cast iron decorative gates for the Carnegie Garden, which were funded jointly by the Friends and the Foundation, were installed recently, and are quite impressive. PPLD received notification from the State Library that its LSTA proposal for development of an online game for children studying and learning Colorado history was approved: This project has the potential to be useful for libraries and school systems statewide.

INTERNAL OPERATIONS

HR: During August and September 2009, 590 applications were received for 13 posted jobs. ReviewSnap training was provided to all supervisors in September, in preparation for completing 2009 performance appraisals. A flu-shot clinic was provided for staff at the September All-Staff meeting. A thorough assessment of workers compensation issues for PPLD was completed and is included in the Board report.

TRAINING and RECOGNITION: Amy Ziegler (Special Collections) has written an article, "Putting Out the Welcome Mat: Archival Outreach in the Public Library Environment," which will be published in the next issue of *The Primary Source*. An 'Ask Colorado' transcript of a search/interaction done by Krista Federico (PPLD Adult Services) was selected for inclusion in the Quality Assurance & Evaluation Subcommittee's Exemplary Transcripts Blog: Krista has been asked to help facilitate a session at CAL on Ask Colorado. Community Relations staff have developed a self-paced, online awareness training program called "23 Advocacy Things," which helps staff to become more aware of PPLD operations as well as more aware of the community served by the District. PPLD's video crew produced vignettes that were used to announce winners at the Business and Arts Luncheon, which is cosponsored by COPPeR and the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber. The site *Crisol de Musicas* linked to PPLD's recent production of a World Music Series performance: PPLD's video production center has extended our global reach.

PLANNING AND PROJECTS

NEW FINANCE SYSTEM: Training was provided in September for the District's transition to a new finance system. Staff are looking forward to the new program, which brings electronic approvals and improved reporting capabilities with it.

NEW COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVES:

PPLD's IT staff is in discussion with El Paso County administrative staff regarding possible collaborative efforts that would reduce costs for both entities and that may qualify for ARRA funding.

PPLD is a major partner in the "Brainy Bunch" book drive and early reading initiative launched this month by the Quality of Life Indicators' Education Vision Council. All PPLD facilities were collection sites for book donations for children birth through age 5. The long-term goal of this project is to increase third grade reading levels in El Paso County. The short-term goal is to provide books at hospitals, pediatricians' offices, and day care centers, and to increase parents' awareness of how critical – and easy – it is to provide a child with early reading/learning skills. This project fits in nicely with PPLD's Children's Services emphasis on emergent literacy skills, with its "Grow a Reader" project and family literacy kits, which was also launched last month.

PPLD will also be a significant partner in the 2010 Census, offering meeting room space as well as helping to promote the importance of 'being counted.'

PLANNING: Planning for 2010 initiatives and programs has begun, and 2010 is shaping up to be "The Year of Innovation" at PPLD. The annual History Symposium, APPR, technology initiatives such as RFID, internal training opportunities, and a series of speakers will focus on innovation in 2010. PPLD will also participate in the proposed Imagination Celebration "Innovation Festival", scheduled for next September. Here's a sneak preview of good things to come in 2010 -- Special Collections will reprint Lightning in His Hand: The Life Story of Nikola Tesla, by Inez Hunt and Wanetta Draper.