2023 Year in Review

Before we turn the calendar page and begin the new year, we want to revisit some of the strategic projects we completed in 2023. It was a busy year for Poudre Libraries and our community, and we were able to add a number of new services and resources. Here are a few highlights.

Library Rebranding
Perhaps the most visible project of 2023 was the Library’s rebranding. After hearing from community members, library staff and partners, we created an identity that reflects the modern library we are and the diverse community we serve. We believe the new look better matches what we’ve become over the years, particularly since emerging from the pandemic: a vibrant and essential center for learning, inspiration, and engagement. The space to be!

Evie, the Mobile Library
The all-electric mobile library made its debut in late April with a week of fun activities throughout the community. In just the first six months on the road, Evie, the mobile library, visited more than 8,900 people throughout the library service area.

Laptop-Lending Kiosk
As part of our efforts to help close the digital gap, we added a new self-service laptop-lending kiosk at Old Town Library for customers to check out individual laptops for use inside the library. These laptops are available in addition to the public computer stations. Good news for 2024! We’re adding a laptop-lending kiosk at Council Tree Library.

Automatic Renewals
This convenient service automatically renews your eligible materials one day prior to the due date as long as there are no holds placed on them by other customers and the items have not reached the maximum number of renewals allowed. No more having to worry about running to the library to return books that you want to keep a bit longer.

Career Online High School
We were excited to add Career Online High School to our available adult learning services. COHS gives adults the opportunity to earn an accredited high school diploma and a career certificate. The Library also offers a limited number of free scholarships to qualified adult learners.

Intellectual Freedom and Banned Books Week
With the number of book challenges increasing across the county, the Library used the annual Banned Book Week celebration to bring attention to the importance of intellectual freedom and individuals’ right to read. We champion the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction.

Innovation Center Partnership
Poudre Libraries, along with the City and School District, announced a partnership to develop a new community innovation center in southeast Fort Collins. The center will include a full-service library, recreation and aquatics facilities, and other public spaces. You can follow project updates at PoudreLibraries.org. Construction is expected to begin in 2025.

december events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Take &amp; Make for Tweens &amp; Teens: Photo Displays</th>
<th>All Day / All Libraries</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Noches en Familia at the Museum: Las Posadas</td>
<td>5 - 7 pm / Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, 408 Mason Ct.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Celebrá Con Algebrijess, la cultura, las tradiciones y la comunidad) Noches en Familia es un programa literario bilingüe que conecta a la comunidad con la cultura Latina a través de cuentos infantiles, música, títires, manualidades, comida, juegos e invitados especiales. Celebrate Las Posadas, culture, traditions and community! Noches en Familia is a bilingual literary program that connects the community with the Latinx culture.</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Harmony in the Round Music Concert: FRCC Faculty Recital</td>
<td>7 - 8 pm / Harmony</td>
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<td>Five Front Range Community College faculty members present a faculty recital concert filled with entertaining musical styles.</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>Animal Afternoon</td>
<td>3 - 4 pm / Old Town</td>
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<td>Furry (and not-so-furry) friends will be ready to read with kids in grades K-5. Presented by Larimer Animal People Partnership.</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>Old Town Book Club</td>
<td>6 - 7:30 pm / Old Town</td>
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<td>This month, we read and discuss Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family by Robert Kalker.</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Colorado Gives Day</td>
<td>All Day / Online</td>
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<td>As you think about end-of-year giving, please consider donating to Poudre River Library Trust at ColoradoGives.org/PoudreRiverLibraryTrust.</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Digital Decluttering for the Holidays</td>
<td>1 - 2:30 pm / Old Town</td>
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<td></td>
<td>registration required</td>
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<td>Learn simple strategies to keep your content and online accounts clear of clutter and your devices running efficiently. A digital declutter in December will set you up for faster and more organized use of your phone, laptop and tablets.</td>
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<td>Tue</td>
<td>Teen Council</td>
<td>6 - 7:30 pm / Harmony</td>
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<td>We meet once a month to plan fun programs, help shape the teen collection, discover exciting volunteer opportunities and more. Teens grades 6-12. Registration required for new attendees.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Tile Art</td>
<td>6 - 7:30 pm / Harmony</td>
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<td>registration required</td>
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<td>Relieve some stress by trying your hand at process art on ceramic tiles. Create a design using permanent markers, followed by drops of rubbing alcohol. The result is a vibrant running of colors! Plan on picking up your tiles the next day.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Snack and Craft: LEGO Bricks</td>
<td>3:30 - 5 pm / Council Tree</td>
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<td>Drop in for a snack and try a new activity or craft every Wednesday. This week we have LEGO® bricks to build with. You are welcome to arrive at any time during the program. For students in middle and high school.</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Word para principiantes</td>
<td>5 - 6:30 pm / Old Town</td>
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<td>Se recomienda registrarse</td>
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<td>Aprenda y pratique las funciones básicas de Microsoft Word. Le ayudaremos a crear, editar y guardar documentos. Todo el equipo será proporcionado.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>thu 5</td>
<td>Registration Opens for Forever Young Adult Book Club</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<td>fri 6</td>
<td>Print Making: Cards</td>
<td>4:30 - 5:30 pm &amp; 6:30 - 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>sat 7</td>
<td>Let’s Talk in Spanish</td>
<td>5 - 5:45 pm</td>
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<td>sun 8</td>
<td>Upcycle Your Old T-Shirts</td>
<td>6 - 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>sun 8</td>
<td>Gay for the Holidays</td>
<td>2 - 4 pm</td>
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<td>mon 9</td>
<td>Candy Cane Hunt</td>
<td>All Libraries</td>
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<td>Wed 11</td>
<td>Teen Council Open House</td>
<td>4:30 - 6 pm</td>
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<td>Thu 12</td>
<td>Registration Opens for Reading Rainbow: LGBTQ+ Book Club</td>
<td>All Day</td>
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<td>Tue 12</td>
<td>Introduction to 3D Printing</td>
<td>1 - 2:30 pm</td>
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<td>Tue 12</td>
<td>Kevin Cook: The Geography of Life in Colorado</td>
<td>1 - 2:30 pm</td>
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<td>1 - 2:30 pm</td>
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<td>Wed 13</td>
<td>Rekindle the Classics</td>
<td>6:30 - 8:30 pm</td>
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<td>Thu 14</td>
<td>Snack and Craft: Silly Art</td>
<td>3:30 - 5 pm</td>
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<td>Thu 14</td>
<td>ESL Book Club</td>
<td>6 - 7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu 14</td>
<td>Tinker Tots</td>
<td>10 - 11 am</td>
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<td>Fri 15</td>
<td>Fort Collins Community Scrabble</td>
<td>9 - 11 am</td>
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<td>Sat 16</td>
<td>Free to Read Book Club</td>
<td>6:30 - 7:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat 16</td>
<td>ESL Book Club</td>
<td>6 - 7:30 pm</td>
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**A library is more than a building, it's community.**

Poudre Libraries strives to create welcoming spaces where everyone belongs.

Innovative library spaces offer everyone the freedom to learn, explore, read, connect, or just be. Imagine updated children and teen areas with comfortable furniture, collaboration stations, sensory-friendly play-and-learn tools, and places to unplug.

INVEST IN YOUR LIBRARY and create accessible & affirming spaces for children & teens.
**special storytimes**

Saturday, December 1  
*Noches en Familia at the Museum*  
5 pm / Fort Collins Museum of Discovery, 408 Mason Ct.

Friday, December 15  
*Timnath Storytime Express*  
10 am / Timnath Town Center, 4550 Signal Tree Dr.

**where is evie?**

Visit PoudreLibraries.org/evie to find out where our mobile library is each day, or view the online events calendar for the full list of stops for the month.

**recurring events**

**every week**  
**Drop-In Hours: City of Fort Collins Multicultural Business & Entrepreneur Center**  
9 am - 12 pm / 2 - 5 pm / Old Town  
Receive help meeting your business or entrepreneurship goals.

**BYOB: Bring Your Own Device Drop-In Tech Help**  
5:30 - 6:30 pm / Old Town  
Computer and device help from Library volunteers. Sign up is located at the library and is first come first served; bring your own device.

**every week**  
**Outreach Fort Collins**  
12 - 2 pm / Old Town  
Drop in for consultation and resources related to housing, food, healthcare, and other critical issues.

**every week**  
**One-on-One Genealogy Assistance**  
1 - 3 pm / Old Town  
Drop in to receive family history research assistance from Larimer County Genealogical Society volunteers.

**Conversations in English**  
7 - 8:30 pm / Online  
An informal setting for English language learners to practice and connect with others. Registered participants will be emailed a Zoom meeting link.

**every week**  
**Free Legal Clinic**  
2 - 3:30 pm / Old Town  
First come, first served. Waitlist opens at 12:45 pm. Volunteer attorneys answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for various legal issues via video conference.

**every week**  
**Homeward Alliance Resource Navigation**  
2 - 5 pm / Old Town  
A resource navigator from the Murphy Center will help people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness access services and resources.

**weekly storytimes**

Storytimes take a break from December 23-January 7 and resume on Monday, January 8. Check the online events calendar for additional weather-related updates or cancellations.

**Monday**

*Council Tree - Toddler*  
10 am & 11 am

*Council Tree - Ages 4+*  
10 am & 11 am

*Harmony - Baby*  
10 am & 11 am

**Tuesday**

*Council Tree - Toddler*  
10 am & 11 am

*Council Tree - Ages 4+*  
10 am & 11 am

*Harmony - Bilingual / Bilingüe*  
10 am & 11 am

*Old Town - Baby*  
10 am & 11 am

**Wednesday**

*Council Tree - Baby*  
10 am & 11 am

*Harmony - All Ages*  
10 am & 11 am

*Old Town - All Ages*  
10 am & 11 am

**Thursday**

*Old Town - Bilingual / Bilingüe*  
10 am & 11 am

**Friday**

*Old Town - All Ages*  
10 am & 11 am

**Saturday**

*Council Tree - All Ages*  
10 am

**BYOB Book Club**  
5:30 - 7 pm / Old Town  
Registration required

Our December theme is *Books With Adaptations*. The BYOB Book Club is a new way to discuss books. Instead of a required book, you can choose any book that falls into our monthly theme. Be ready to discuss your pick and receive new book recommendations.

**Teen Writers**  
4:30 - 6 pm / Harmony  
Are you ready to flex your creative brain muscles? Welcome to Teen Writers, a support and critique group for teens who love to write. Short stories, novels, poetry, screenplays - whatever your passion, we’re here to help and encourage. We will have writing exercises, prompts for ideas, and peer editing.

**Sandwich Generation Caregiver Support Group**  
10 - 11:30 am / Harmony & Online  
This monthly support group provides time to come together in person and virtually to release stress, share experiences, give and receive encouragement, and feel understood. Hosted by the Alzheimer’s Association. Join online or in person.

**Holiday Closure**  
All Library Locations  
Closed for Holiday.

**Happy “Noon” Year’s Party for Kids**  
11 am - 1 pm / Harmony  
Countdown to 12 Noon with us! Fun activities and games for kids who want to celebrate the new year but their bedtime is before midnight. Happy 2024!

**Holiday Closure**  
All Library Locations  
Closed for Holiday.

**drop-in events**

**Crafternoon: Bring Your Own Project**  
2 - 4 pm / Council Tree  
Do you have some hand-knits you are working on, or a cross-stitch sampler? Are you crocheting, sewing, beading, embroidering or creating friendship bracelets? Drop by to work on your project and enjoy the company of other crafters!

**BYOB Book Club**  
5:30 - 7 pm / Old Town  
Registration required

Our December theme is *Books With Adaptations*. The BYOB Book Club is a new way to discuss books. Instead of a required book, you can choose any book that falls into our monthly theme. Be ready to discuss your pick and receive new book recommendations.

**Book Club for Mortals**  
3 - 4:30 pm / Online  
Registration required

We discuss *The Wisdom of Morrie: Living and Aging Creatively and Joyfully* by Morrie Schwartz.

**Snack and Craft: Flavored Sugar**  
3:30 - 5 pm / Council Tree  
This week we make flavored sugar to use for baking or cooking, or to give as a gift. For students in middle and high school.

**Free Legal Clinic**  
2 - 3:30 pm / Old Town  
First come, first served. Waitlist opens at 12:45 pm. Volunteer attorneys answer questions, help fill out forms, and explain the process and procedure for various legal issues via video conference.

**Homeward Alliance Resource Navigation**  
2 - 5 pm / Old Town  
A resource navigator from the Murphy Center will help people experiencing homelessness or at risk of experiencing homelessness access services and resources.

**Larimer County Community Justice Alternatives**  
2 - 4 pm / Old Town  
Check in with your case manager from Larimer County Community Justice Alternatives, work with Competency Services, Bridges or check in with pre-trial services or MHIPS.
Mark your calendars so you don’t miss out on the fun. Fort Collins Book Fest returns February 1-19 and features author visits, writing workshops, readings, panel discussions, and more. There will be kid-friendly activities and sessions specially designed for teens. The event is free and open to all ages. Visit FoCoBookFest.org for author announcements and festival updates. Plan to make time in February to see your favorite authors, get book recommendations, and meet fellow book lovers.

Headlining Authors

OSCAR HOKEAH, award-winning author of the debut novel Calling for a Blanket Dance, joins the festival as a headlining author. Hokeah’s author talk is Saturday, February 17 at 7:00 pm at Fort Collins Lincoln Center. Free tickets will be available at the Lincoln Center – stay tuned for details. A book signing will follow the presentation. Old Firehouse Books, the official bookseller of the Fort Collins Book Fest, will be on-hand before and after Hokeah’s session for book sales.

Prior to the evening session, Hokeah will lead a writing workshop called “Finding Voice: Vernacular via Colloquial and Regional Speech” starting at 3:00 pm in the Founders Room at the Lincoln Center. The workshop is free to attend but registration is required via the event website: FoCoBookFest.org.

Calling for a Blanket Dance received the PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel and was longlisted for the 2023 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction and the 2023 Aspen Words Literary Prize. The novel takes readers into the life of Ever Geimausaddle, whose family—part Mexican, part Native American—is determined to hold onto their community despite obstacles everywhere they turn. It is a moving and deeply engaging novel about finding strength in familial identity.

Joining Hokeah as a headlining presenter is celebrated children’s author UMA KRISHNASWAMI. Her award-winning children’s and middle grade books include Two at the Top: A Shared Dream of Everest and Threads of Peace: How Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. Changed the World.

For more than 25 years, Krishnaswami has been writing picture books, chapter books, early readers, short stories, and novels for young readers. Her work has been picked for Outstanding International Books, Bank Street Best Books of the Year, and the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. Her Book Fest sessions are scheduled for Saturday, February 10.

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She will guide adults interested in writing children’s books in a workshop entitled “How I Learned to Love Revising and Reject Rejection.” She will also host two repeating workshops for kids ages 8-12 called “Whose Story?” in which young writers will investigate the power of point-of-view.

Fort Collins Book Fest is presented by Poudre Libraries in partnership with CSU Libraries, CSU Department of English, Old Firehouse Books, Front Range Community College – Larimer Campus, and others. Oscar Hokeah’s appearance is supported by the TourWest grant from WESTAF and the National Endowment of the Arts.