



DOWNTOWN LIBRARY
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RAPIDCITYLIBRARY.ORG



DIRECTOR'S REPORT DECEMBER 2021

COMMUNITY, GOVERNMENTAL, AND INTERLIBRARY RELATIONS:

I was interviewed by the National Humanities Alliance (NHA). The NHA has chosen three communities or regions in the country (Nogales AZ, Charleston SC, and Rapid City) to review for possible humanities programming case studies, that they will use for their advocacy to increase funding for humanities programming. In addition, the NHA has staff who can assist us in developing qualitative event assessments, that will aid us in compiling impact research for our various events and services. We will begin discussing possibilities about these assessments after the first of the year.

I was invited to take part in a meeting to discuss issues in Indigenous education, with the goal of developing recommendations for improving the educational experience, learning environment, and learning outcomes for Indigenous students. The meeting was convened by the school district's Indigenous Education Task Force, and included several members of the City Council and County Commission, as well as Task Force members.

NEW SERVICES

We have upgraded our Newsbank database to include searchable, digital versions of the current *Rapid City Journal* issues. A library card is needed to access this service. Newsbank provides online access to current information from reliable news sources on a wide variety of topics and issues.

STAFF TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT:

Brady Jones started as a Library Associate I on November 15. Brady has experience working at the Spearfish library and has also been a multimedia journalist, and has quickly fit in with our staff.

On November 6, police officers Eric Dwyer and Catlyn Cordell provided training to all library staff on mental illness and substance abuse issues. This training is part of a series of annual safety training provided to all staff members.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Friends of the Library voted unanimously at their November meeting to contribute \$35,000 towards the library's bookmobile. The Friends are planning a check presentation photo op to announce this gift.

The library began hosting focus groups, facilitated by Callie Tysdal of Benchmark Data Labs. These focus groups were convened to gather information for the library needs assessment, which will help inform the new strategic plan. Participants were selected by Callie, based on interest expressed in the recent survey, and included representatives from current library users and non-library users. Focus groups with the business community are planned, and are being coordinated with the assistance of Elevate. The Library Foundation provided meals and gift card incentives to the participants.

The library received a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council/National Endowment for the Humanities to aid with strategic planning. The \$9,107 award will be used for the strategic plan needs assessment work being done by Benchmark Data Labs, as mentioned above.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

- November 11, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [As in-person lessons increase Literacy Council welcomes new students and tutors](#)
- November 17, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [Cathie Draine – Books that will help a gardener grow](#)
- November 18, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [City Holiday Hours](#)
- November 19, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [First responders have lowest vaccination incentive rates among city employees](#)
- November 19, 2021 Rapid City Journal Mention: [City offers Christmas light recycling program](#)
- November 22, 2021 Newscenter1 Mention: [Rapid City's Christmas light recycling program starts Friday](#)
- November 24, 2021 KOTA Live Noon Show: Customize memorable gifts in the makerspace
- November 27, 2021 Rapid City Journal Article: [As holidays continue, librarian prepares for more teen time](#)

ONLINE REVIEWS:

- October 30, 2021 - Google 5-Star Review, Nick A
- November 4, 2021 - Google 4-Star Review, C Bustos
 - Enjoyed the quiet studious atmosphere of the library. Library has a great children's area. Bring a mask to deal directly with library staff
- November 5, 2021 - Google 5-Star Review, C Bustos
- November 12, 2021 - Google 5-Star Review, Nancy Synder

We received a card from a woman in Cincinnati, Ohio: 'November greeting! I'm working my way through a year-long act of democracy, relying on a humble postage stamp to carry my thanks and appreciation to a library in each state for your efforts to nurture curiosity, courage, creativity, and committedness. Thank you, now more than ever, for keeping our communities smart and strong. Good luck as you forge the way forward.'