

FY20 Welcoming Libraries Grantee Project Summaries

Ada Community Library - Hidden Springs Branch:

The Hidden Springs Library will create a storytime curriculum which embraces various cultures and religions to include all children as well as ensuring the children's book collection reflects the diversity of the population of Boise. To achieve these goals, the library staff will conduct a diversity audit of both their picture book and non-fiction collections and of their storytime curriculum. The results of these audits, along with input from cultural community partners, will inform their book purchasing decisions and programming adjustments.

Coeur d'Alene Public Library:

Coeur d'Alene Public Library will create a welcoming environment at the library for children with a wide variety of special need including sensory processing disorder, autism, visual impairments and hearing impairments. Library staff will: conduct an audit of their children's programs, Sensory Storytime, and of their braille books; create sensory kits that will become available for children/families during any program and as well for check-out; and make changes to the facility which will allow their library to be in-line with sensory certification guidelines. Library staff will work with two local agencies who specifically serve this population to help guide their work. "The library will establish itself as an open, welcoming space where all can learn and explore in the way that works best for them."

Emmett Public Library:

The Emmett Public Library will create a "welcome to the library" area in the facility which will introduce children and families to the resources they have available and help the library staff determine which resources/needs are not being met by the library. The library staff will include a display of diverse and inclusive children's books in this space and will conduct a children's collection diversity audit to determine the gaps in their collection. Library staff will work with their local Rotary and Kiwanis clubs to create the welcome lobby space and displays.

Franklin County District Library/Larsen-Sant Public Library:

The Larsen-Sant Public Library will create a more welcoming and inclusive library and support their newly determined inclusion goals (i.e. "The Larsen-Sant Library will be a safe place for all of our community"). In particular, the library staff will focus on ways to better serve their Spanish-speaking patrons including improvements to their Spanish-language collection and the creation of welcome signs and collection labels in Spanish (and other languages) throughout the library. The library staff will work with two local

non-profit organizations that serve Spanish-speaking families to help promote and bring awareness in the community about the resources.

Gooding Middle School Library:

The Gooding Middle School Library will create a better-balanced library collection that more closely reflects the composition and needs of their student body. Considering that no new Spanish-language fiction or non-fiction books have been purchased in the last 20 years, there is much to be done. The library will also focus on displaying and promoting the new Spanish-language resources and lunchtime programming so that all students, including ESL and Spanish-speaking students, can take advantage of the school library and boost their learning experience. The library staff will work the district's ESL department, the Latinos in Action Club at the school, and the director of the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB) to guide their collection purchasing decisions.

Gooding Public Library:

The Gooding Public Library will focus on ways their library can better meet the needs of children with different abilities by providing these children with materials/equipment that help them feel comfortable at the library, such as noise canceling headphones, weighted blankets and fidget toys. Library staff will work to make existing children's programming, such as storytime, more inclusive for children with disabilities and will create sensory kits for library use and check out. The library staff will work with local rehabilitative service providers, special education teachers, and an occupational therapist to guide their collection purchasing decisions.

Hagerman Elementary School Library:

The Hagerman Elementary School Library will focus in creating a library "where all students can see their own experiences...as well as the opportunity to learn about and empathize with the diverse experiences of others." Library staff will conduct a collection diversity audit which takes #OwnVoices into consideration as well as student interviews to gain a better understanding of the students the school serves and their needs. The library will review the stories currently being presented to students during library hour and make a plan to include more diverse and inclusive children's books in library programming and displays. The library will work with a local community member who is familiar with the LatinX community to inform their decisions.

Lewiston City Library:

The Lewiston City Library will create a multi-purpose sensory "space and specially selected books to accommodate patrons and families living with unique abilities." The sensory space will be used for sensory storytimes, books clubs, Summer Reading programs and other library programming for sensory sensitive children. The multi-purpose room will also serve as a reservable space for service agencies and families. The

library will work with a local non-profit advocacy group for individuals on the autism spectrum to inform their room design and help spread the word about this new resource.

Madison Library District:

The Madison Library District will focus on library improvements to better serve children with a hearing impairment and ensure they feel welcome, especially during their weekly storytime program. In conjunction with the Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IESDB), the library staff will conduct both a storytime and children's collection diversity audit to ensure their children's programming/collection is inclusive for children with hearing impairments. Library staff will also "teach youth patrons how to communicate with children who have a hearing impairment," therefore increasing understanding between the children.

Meridian District Library:

The Meridian District Library will focus their attention on creating "a diverse collection so it can not only act as a 'mirror' to our minority and underserved groups, but more importantly so it can serve as a 'window' for the majority of our library patrons and community." The library staff will focus its' efforts on a diversity audit of the children's picture book collection due to its high usage by all children/families, library staff, and outreach programs for daycares and preschools. After new materials are purchased to fill gaps in the collection, staff will revamp the popular "What Should I Read Next" display/list with diversity in mind. The library will work with the local Head Start and elementary school staff to meet their resource needs and share information with targeted groups of children/families.

Syringa Mountain School (K-8) Library (in Hailey):

The Syringa Mountain School Library will focus on improving library resources for their large Spanish-speaking student body. The library will also add equipment/kits that better meet the needs of students with sensory sensitivity and point their library in the direction of becoming a sensory certified venue. The library will work with the district ESL department and a national non-profit verse in sensory certification to guide their work.