Library Board Presentation

June 21, 2022

Library Board Purpose

The purpose of the library board is to receive input from the public, and based on that input, make recommendations to Council that support the fulfillment of the library's mission in the community.

Library Board Mission

The Library offers opportunities for our diverse regional community to learn, know, gather, and grow by providing open and equal access to a variety of ideas and information through evolving technology and services.
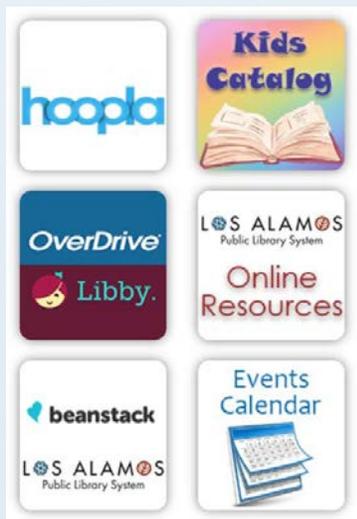
FY 2022 Board Activities

- Still limited due to COVID procedures.
- Welcomed one new member, and one returning member. (we have a full board)
- Assisted in thanking our Library staff for National Library Week.
- In conversation about getting back into the community to interact and receive feedback.
- Heard reports from library staff on accessibility and technology
- Preparing to welcome a new Library Manager.

Library COVID Response

- Curbside pick-up has remained, and hours extended again during "surge."
- Virtual, hybrid and outdoor activities
- Increased usage and promotion of digital resources.
- Temporary closure when called for by the county.

- Decreased number of computers available – social distancing and technology concerns.
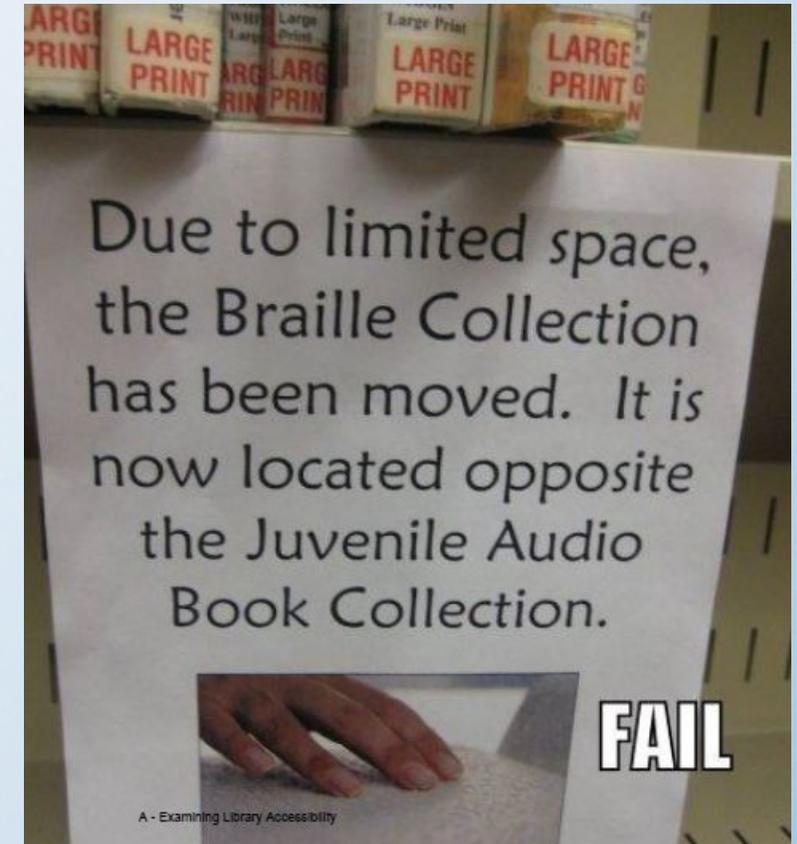- Increasing number of programs as it is deemed safer to do so.

Friends of the Los Alamos County Libraries

- Members of the Board served as liaisons to the Friends of the Los Alamos County Libraries and attend their meetings.

- Opened up more hours based upon volunteer availability.

- Friends donated approximately $25,000 to the library last year through their bookstore activities and community donations.
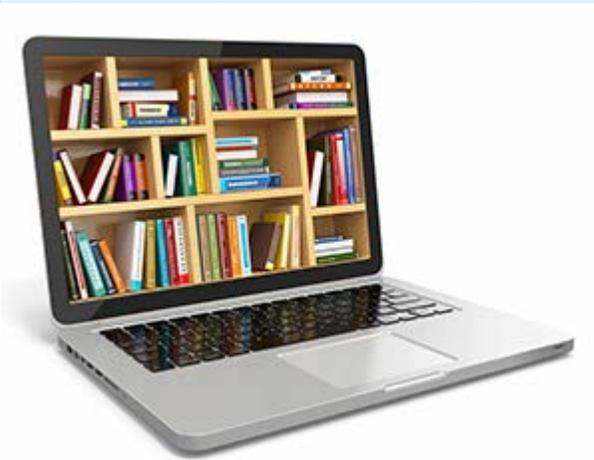
Accessibility

- Library staff presented to the Board and to the State Library Association on Accessibility issues in libraries.

- Did an accessibility audit of the library to assess spaces, services and staff, which included working with advocacy groups

- Learn and grow

- Provide training, education and resources at the library on accessibility topics

- Recognize that this is not one-and-done.

Due to limited space, the Braille Collection has been moved. It is now located opposite the Juvenile Audio Book Collection.

A - Examining Library Accessibility

FAIL

Technology

- Increase in demand for digital resources in many forms.

- Increase in demand for library services outside the physical building.

- Need to address equity, diversity and inclusivity for all services.

- Disaster preparedness and the role libraries play

- Increased concern for technology and privacy

- Budget constraints

- Patron Computer usage and availability
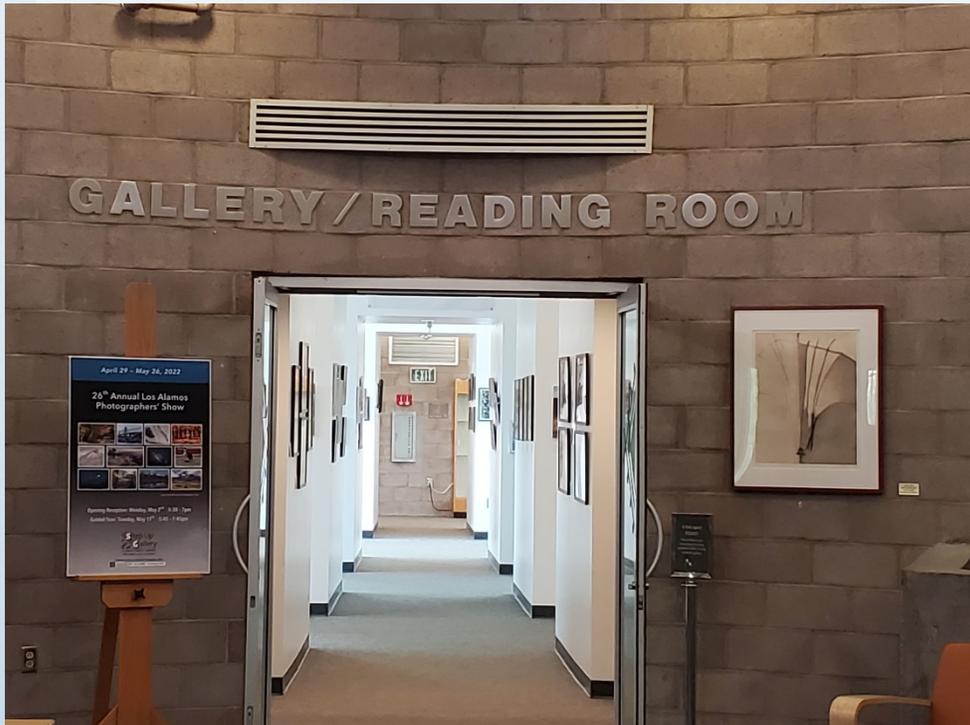
- Hiring for technology and website development

What's Next...

- Continuing to help the County Council with allocating resources that ensure the sustainability of the Library in the community
- Helping the Council in supporting opportunities for the local business environment – wifi access, quiet work spaces, technology help, electronic resources and other "check-out" items
- Continuing to make community aware of digital resources that are available to businesses and individuals.
- Continuing activities at the library, and partnering with others, that provide youth with healthy alternatives to risk-taking behavior.

What's Next...

- Seek to work with other boards and groups to partner in initiatives were possible.
- Continue to assist the library in improving technology offerings for the public and seeing the library in new ways to create a new "normal."
- Seek ways to interface with county task forces to assist in supporting their work with sustainability and racial equality and inclusion, among others.
- Work on getting back into the community to promote the library and get community feedback.

Questions