



## **Ana Ruiz Morillo: meeting people where they are**

For Spanish Outreach Coordinator Ana Ruiz Morillo, growing up in the Dominican Republic amidst pronounced wealth disparity led her to pursue a career in education and community outreach — she wanted to help others find opportunity and paths to success.

Growing up between her parents' two different Dominican neighborhoods, Ana experienced both the lessons of responsibility and hard work, and the privilege of having opportunity and established social circles.

“These contrasting experiences made me think about equity before I even knew how to describe it. All communities deserve access to quality healthcare, a good education, and opportunities to succeed. I knew I wanted to do something about it,” said Ana.

Ana started in her own community in Santo Domingo, meeting with leaders, organizing events and coaching youth on important leadership skills like public speaking.

Eventually, Ana earned her degree and became a teacher in the Dominican Republic before moving to the United States in 1995. In Oregon, she found a job with the Multnomah County Health Department — a place where she felt fulfilled using her bilingual skills while working with community members at neighborhood health clinics. She had planned to work while earning her Master's Degree in Education so she could return to teaching. But then a job opened up with the library that seemed a perfect match.

"When I came to work at the library, my supervisor told me, 'you will always make a difference to students in the classroom, but through the library, you will broaden your impact. It's a door to the whole community.'"

"That was 12 years ago, and I haven't looked back," says Ana.

Now, Ana coordinates Spanish outreach services for the library. Working with bilingual library staff from across the county, volunteers and interns, Ana helps foster connections and build programs, services and networks between the library and the Multnomah County's Latinx community.

One of the most successful library programs Ana leads is El Día de los Niños y El Día de los Libros (Day of the children and Day of the books). The annual celebration of childhood and bilingual literacy is one of the library's largest programs. Every April, several library locations offer fun and free literacy programming for kids, along with information for parents about how to support their children's educational development. In 2018, Día events and programs drew nearly 10,000 attendees.

Ana now utilizes her networking and leadership skills to mentor other library staff, volunteers and interns on conducting bilingual outreach in the community.

"I continue to fall in love with my job. The library isn't just flyers and books; the library is meeting people where they are. We are facilitating connections, broadening cultural understanding, and helping other people find their purpose and make an investment in their communities."

## **Central Library administrator appointed to national board**

Central Library Administrator Traci Glass was recently selected as the Youth Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) 2019 Board Fellow.

"I am so happy and honored to have been chosen as this year's Board Fellow for YALSA," said Glass. "I love being a part of this organization, and I know this experience will help me be a better leader within my own organization as well as in YALSA."

YALSA, a division of the American Library Association, is dedicated to supporting library staff in alleviating the challenges teens face, and in putting all teens – especially those with the greatest needs – on the path to successful and fulfilling lives.

As Board Fellow, Glass will have the opportunity to enhance her leadership, management, and administration skills; gain in-depth knowledge of the association and how associations work; experience what YALSA Board service entails; consider long-term leadership potential; network with association leaders; and give back to the association through service.

Congratulations, Traci!



## Library rolls out Lucky Day DVD pilot program

Library patrons can now access high-demand movies sooner, thanks to the new Lucky Day DVD pilot program.

Last year, the library's staff-led innovation program, Curiosity Kick!, surfaced an idea for Lucky Day DVDs. The winning project idea was funded, and on January 29, Lucky Day DVDs were rolled out at Gregory Heights, Kenton and Rockwood libraries.

Already a beloved service for popular books, Lucky Day DVDs are available in a similar fashion. Patrons can check out these DVDs on a first-come, first-serve basis. Lucky Day DVDs have a two-week checkout period, and there are no holds and no renewals allowed on the items.

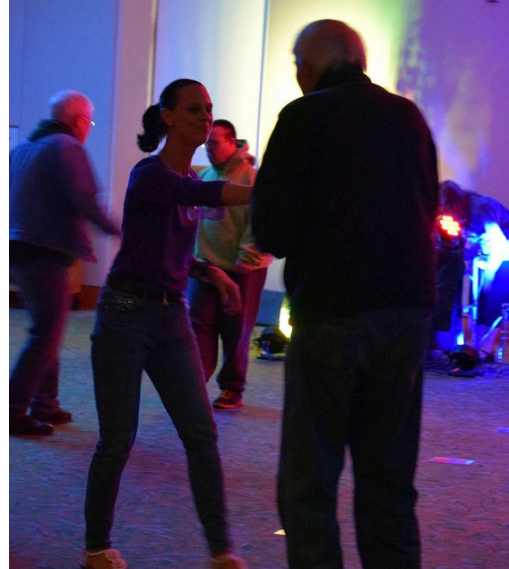
Patrons may check out up to two Lucky Day items at a time (including books and DVDs).

The Lucky Day DVD pilot program runs through the end of June 2019. Library staff will then evaluate the program to determine if it should be permanently implemented.

## Central Library hosts dance party for adults with disabilities

Last November, disability rights activist and professional DJ Lamar Wright transformed Central Library's meeting room into a pulsing dance club with dramatic lighting and driving dance beats.

After identifying the lack of opportunity for adults with disabilities to socialize within their community, DJ Lamar created the monthly Last Chance Friday Dance at Russellville Grange. With encouragement from library staffer Christy Wong, DJ Lamar brought the party to Central Library. The event was a hit: "DJ Lamar brought so much joy, fun and funk to us! It was fantastic to see all the action on the dance floor and people enjoying each other, the music and the atmosphere. DJL rocked the house!" said one Central Library staff member.



Central Library staff work to reflect and attract the diverse communities of the county through their programming choices. That includes a monthly crafts and games program for adults with disabilities, designed and hosted by Central Librarian Pauline Theriault.

## Four fast facts

- Multnomah County Library is one of 65 libraries across the nation that surpassed one million digital downloads in 2018.
- In 2018, the library's contact center answered 135,686 calls and processed 8,820 emails.
- In January 2019, the library had more digital checkouts (305,514) than physical checkouts at the six busiest locations combined (Belmont, Central, Hillsdale, Hollywood, Midland, Woodstock).
- Albert Ernest Doyle (A.E. Doyle), the famed architect who designed the Central Library, also designed Reed College, the Multnomah Falls Lodge, Civic Stadium (now Providence Park), and Portland's iconic drinking fountains, the "Benson bubblers," among many other Portland landmarks.

## Patron comments

"My 10 yo son LOVES being in this teen space. He is on a cusp between kid and teenager, and this space always makes him feel safe and engaged." — Hillsdale patron, Sue, January 18, 2019

"I am so impressed with the online aspect of the library. Actually I like everything about the library: that it is accessible to everyone, everyone is treated with respect, staff are so helpful, the library has tons of excellent resources. Great organization!" — Central Library patron, January 17, 2019

"I would like to express special thanks to Terra [at Central Library] who went above and beyond to help me find the music I was looking for, for a very important Church audition. If it wasn't for Terra I would never be able to find the musical scores. She also provided resources. I think Terra is an exceptional team member of Multnomah County Library. Thank you so much for your help." — Staci, January 15, 2019

"I love the employees Laura and Paul at the check out desk [at Central Library]! I had to return a DVD that was a part of a set of DVD's that I had mislaid and had to return it by itself and I was so embarrassed. But they both treated me with dignity. Paul was relieving Laura for her break (I think) Anyway also I had deposited books in the book drop a week ago that were not library books. And Paul took the time to help this air headed Granny (me) by going and looking to see if they could be found, but they were not here. He treated me with respect and I know that he has integrity because he respected me as a Patron! And the same can be said for Laura too. Your employees shine at Central Library. Always I am pleased with the exceptional Customer care." — Rosemary, January 14, 2019

## In the news

[That's \(Free\) Entertainment! Distract and Amuse Yourself for Almost Nothing](#) (Portland Mercury, January 31)

[Is print dead -- even at the Multnomah County library?](#) (Portland Tribune, January 31)

[Libraries saving lives: Pilot program trains employees to administer naloxone](#) (KPTV, January 25)

[65 Public Libraries Achieve Record-breaking Reading Engagement by Exceeding 1 Million Digital Checkouts in 2018](#) (PR Newswire, January 15)

## Upcoming events

[Share Your Gender Identity Story](#) (an Everybody Reads event)  
Wednesday, February 13  
11am  
Portland Community College - Rock Creek Campus

[Craft for a Cause](#)  
Wednesday, February 20  
4 pm  
Belmont Library

[So You Want to Run for Office?](#)  
Wednesday, February 20  
6:30 pm  
Central Library

[Black History Month Film Fest](#)  
Saturday, February 23  
3 pm  
St. Johns Library

[Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement](#)  
Sunday, February 24  
3 pm  
Capitol Hill Library

[Africa to America: Adjusting to a New Life](#)  
Thursday, February 28  
6 pm  
Midland Library

[Talking Across the Political Divide](#)  
Saturday, March 2  
1 pm  
Gresham Library

[Decolonizing Beauty](#)  
Sunday, March 3  
2 pm  
Kenton Library