



*Largo Public Library*  
2021: A Year in Review

## 2021: Improving from the INSIDE OUT

**2021** required adaptation, patience and perseverance. Library programs and services have historically been similar from year to year with minor tweaks based on trends and incremental changes in technology, local interest and growth. Then came 2020 and everything turned upside down. In this follow up year, staff continued to invent and refine new ways of doing business. The building is sixteen years old now, so projects always include repair, maintenance and renovation. Modifications were made to indoor and outdoor spaces to better accommodate new usage patterns. "Excuse our dust" apologies were sometimes necessary, but the disruptions for project completion allow the building to maintain its quality, functionality and beauty in the short and long term. Despite the trials of the last two years, Largo Public Library remains a community anchor and intellectual resource for all.

### Be the Change

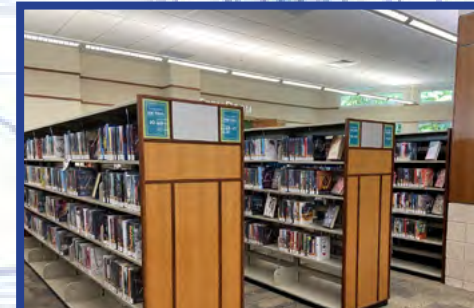
The Fine Free policy was implemented in October by all Pinellas Public Library Cooperative member libraries. The arbitrary cost of fines was thought to be contrary to the inclusivity libraries want to provide.



**BORROW IT,  
LOVE IT,  
RETURN IT!  
OVERDUE FINE FREE**



No overdue fines at PPLC Member Libraries effective October 1, 2021. Thank you for returning your items on time! For more information: visit [pnlc.us/finefree](http://pnlc.us/finefree)



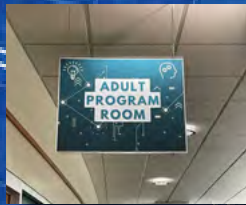
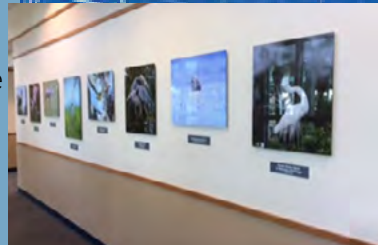
**LARGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
IS FOR EVERYONE**



**A diversity audit** of the Young Adult Fiction collection started in October 2021. The staff team took a snapshot look at the collection and are currently reviewing content in this ongoing project for diversity of character race, ethnicity, gender, family situations, socio-economic status, plot settings, and more. Each team member has been assigned an author letter, reviews books within that range, and enters data into a shared spreadsheet. The goal of the audit is to ensure that the library's collection is reflective of the community we serve. It is about 23% complete.

## INSIDE IMPROVEMENTS

**In response** to current trends, the computer lab was updated for use as a programming room. The ideaLab moved downstairs into this new multipurpose space, giving patrons the opportunity to participate in more hands-on programming. The changes continued upstairs with a new teen collaborative space and a planned shift for English Language Learning classes to move to a larger room this year. Staff worked hard to make sure that patrons were able to adjust to these changes and provide positive experiences in the new spaces. An engaging photographic display was installed in the Jenkins Wing that highlights the amazing birds of Largo. Many of these projects were funded by generous donors through the Friends of the Largo Library and the Greater Largo Library Foundation. Local support helps sustain library services in good times and bad and is appreciated.

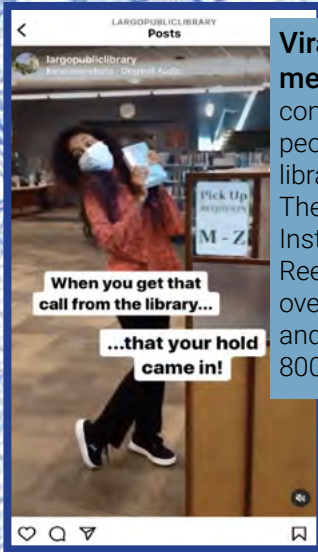


## OUTSIDE IMPROVEMENTS

**This year** we started a butterfly garden beautification project with a lasting gift from a good friend to our community, David Berolzheimer. We were able to have our pond completely renovated and new fish added, the ivy was removed and replaced with bougainvillea, and our Teen volunteers helped to replace the old flowers and bushes with butterfly friendly plants. This not only beautified our outdoor area, it allowed for us to be certified by the North American Butterfly Association as an official butterfly garden. We are so excited for next phase of improvements, so stay tuned. Attention was also given to the library's outdoor spaces as well. R.G.'s Bookmark Café patio was extended and enhanced with new pavers, giving patrons more outdoor space for their enjoyment. It allowed for modifications to landscape design and provided a more welcoming presence to the front of the building.



# Library Programs & Collection



**Viral social media** videos connected more people to the library than ever. The most popular Instagram Reels post had over 8,000 likes and more than 800,000 views.



**In Person** adult programs doubled this year and with more people getting out, increased in attendance.



**Take Home Crafts** continued to be a popular substitute for in person programs. Library staff created 6,811 kits that were distributed at adult, teen and children's reading levels. Each kit contained craft instructions and supplies.



**Adult Virtual Trivia** started in May 2021 as a way to bring programming to patrons over Zoom. The trivia night focuses on a variety of pop culture factoids, and the first 20 patrons to register receive a goodie bag filled with handmade items and food & drink recipes. Since the start, over 300 patrons have participated.

**Checkouts were closer to pre-pandemic numbers:**

2019	864,447
2020	696,166
2021	707,217

**The Beanstack Reading App** hosted 242 active patrons (mostly ages 4-9) who read 7,201 book and submitted 363 reviews in 9 months. Most logged books were, *Dog Man Unleashed* and *Goodnight Moon*.



**Outreach checkouts** increased 26% with the addition of Home Delivery and patron usage of Bookmobile services. A generous gift to the Greater Largo Library Foundation will allow the purchase and maintenance of an additional outreach vehicle in perpetuity.

## **2021: By the Numbers**

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84,970 Population: Largo, Florida  
67,728 Total Registered Library Cards

293,995 Library Visitors  
98,272 Patron Assistance  
223,028 Digital Visitors  
707,217 Total Checkouts

2,438 Programs  
23,958 Program Attendees  
600,150 Computer Users

274,580 Total Items in Our Collection  
81,811 Electronic Items

40 Full Time Equivalent Employees  
8,456 Volunteer Hours

