Lift-Off with LSTA Grants

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Highlighting LSTA 2022 Projects

• Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds are awarded every year to Arizona State Library from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).

• For the LSTA 2022 cycle, the State Library received $3.5 million and awarded over $600,000 in subgrants throughout Arizona.

• Library staff used LSTA to improve collections, connect with teens, preserve community memories, provide STEAM resources, and much more.

• We’ll hear about 16 LSTA projects -- just a sampler of the nearly 60 projects awarded.
Presentations from Around the State

- Program Description
- Grant Amount
- Major Findings
- Lessons Learned
- Next Steps

- Yuma County Library District
- Snowflake-Taylor Public Library
- Prescott Valley Public Library
- Pima County Public Library
- Huachuca City Public Library
- Glendale Public Library
- East Flagstaff Community Library
- Beaver Creek School/Public Library
- Apache Junction Public Library
Memory Time Project
Yuma County Library District

- **Project Description:** Developed memory kits for adult individuals of diverse, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds and limited skills due to dementia or other cognitive impairment
- **Grant amount:** $6,684.00
Major Findings: 100% of participants were satisfied with the program and most likely to return.

Lessons Learned: Communication with the community was useful. More outreach is needed to ensure the community is aware of the resources.

Next Steps: Continue to work with community partners and update items for kits and expand Memory Café as needed.
Digitizing Yuma’s Collection of Materials
Yuma County Library District

- **Project Description:**
  - Provided an ST ViewScan 4 Digital Microfilm Scanner System for the public to view, save, e-mail, and print microfilm and microfiche images.

- **Grant amount:** $13,405.00
**Major Findings:** Positive feedback confirmed that the updated microfiche device was necessary.

**Lessons Learned:** When scanning services are needed, people looking to convert microfiche and microfilm to digital depend on the library to provide the necessary resources to help preserve their information and memories.

**Next Steps:** Continue to collaborate with local organizations.
Project Description: The goal of the project was to support career and college readiness through a library internship for teens.

Funds were used to pay the selected intern who gained real-world experience about what it takes to work in a library setting while building a sense of community and exploring their creativity.

Grant amount: $3,500.00
**Major Findings:** The intern learned skills such as shelving, using the Dewey decimal system, new technology, display decoration, and planning programs.

**Lessons Learned:** There is a need for teen volunteer positions within our community. Unfortunately, due to limited volunteer positions and available staff, scheduling conflicts can limit the interns/volunteer positions we can offer in our rural area.

**Next Steps:** Phase II would include hiring a teen volunteer to help out at another branch.
Personal History Preservation
Snowflake-Taylor Public Library

- **Project Description:** The aim of this project was to assist community members in preserving their personal histories by providing equipment and training.
- **Grant amount:** $4000
- **Major Findings:** Over 70% of those surveyed shared their enthusiasm for the project.

- **Lessons Learned:** The library program did not attract minors. The program will need to be adjusted to reach younger patrons.

- **Next Steps:** The library will continue to provide training for and access to the digitization equipment. Volunteers will offer assistance.
Project Description: The goal of this project was to provide accessible library materials and enrichment activities for residents of local assisted living centers.

Grant amount: $4000
- **Major Findings:** This project was intended for in-resident facilities, but by opening it up to homebound patrons, it increased the impact.

- **Lessons Learned:** It takes time to learn the specific tastes of the individuals in both library materials and activities.

- **Next Steps:** The library will continue monthly visits to the in-resident facilities and will prepare materials for home-bound patrons on a quarterly basis.
SPARK A CONVERSATION! MEMORY KITS TO GO
Prescott Valley Public Library

• **Project Description:** The goal of this project was to create themed memory kits that support caregivers, family members, and those living with Alzheimer’s disease, memory loss, or other cognitive impairment. Each kit is specifically designed to spark memories, create conversations, and provide positive and engaging interactions.

• **Grant Amount:** $4,000

• **Major Findings:** 100% of participants learned something new, found value in the kits, and will participate in similar programs or will check out another kit.
• **Lessons Learned:** Marketing the kits in various ways (especially outreach and in-house programs) is very important to get the word out about the program.

• **Next Steps:** The library will continue to host outreach events at senior living/memory care facilities to help raise awareness and importance of the Memory Kits.
Memory Kits are developed specifically for people with dementia, memory loss, or cognitive impairment. They are intended to stimulate conversation or reminiscence with a person with cognitive issues. Our kits include a collection of resources and items that allow users an opportunity to engage in conversation about their life experiences with the items.

**What's in a Memory Kit**

- CD player
- CD with soothing or memory sparking music
- Interactive activity (such as a puzzle, games, conversation cards)
- Caregiver Resource Books

**Types of Memory Kits**

- 4 kits for Early Stage Dementia – **Green Bags**
- 6 kits for Mid-Stage Dementia – **Red Bags**
- 2 kits for Late Stage Dementia – **Blue Bags**
Trauma Informed Services
Pima County Public Library (PCPL)

- Project Description: Created a meaningful and effective trauma informed care model to support staff in processing and healing from traumatic or intensely stressful events within our workplace. Funds were used to hire a consultant with expertise in the trauma informed field, contract with local professionals for curated trainings, provide mental health support, and create an extensive toolkit for staff.

- Grant amount: $67,485.00
**Major Findings:**
- Around half of PCPL staff actively and continuously engaged in this initiative.
- 75% of leaders stated their intention to put new knowledge into practice.

**Lessons Learned:**
- Staff well-being should be valued equally with that of our community members.
- Organizational healing is not easy, but it’s worth it!
- Leadership must model, leadership buy-in is essential.
Next Steps:

- Continued advocacy with our administration and Pima County
- Continued evolution of the toolkit
- Mental health providers hired on contract
- Evaluation of library-specific structures that may inhibit implementation of trauma informed practices
Project Description: The goal of this project was to continue our Hotspot Lending Program and close the digital divide in our community.

Grant amount: $4000

Major Findings:
- We had a 67% usage increase over 2021/2022.
- We went from 24 to 32 devices.
• **Lessons Learned:** Have the customer service phone number of your service provider in the box so patrons can call them to complain about slow data instead of you.

• **True Weird Story:** A hotspot was returned by a patron’s roommate (who had also used the hotspot and said it was running hot) and inside were two new and unopened alcohol wipes! We never found out why!?!?

• **Next Steps:** Look for funding opportunities to be able continue this very valuable library service.
The goal of this project was to expand library services outside of the physical library one day a week at our Community Center in lower Huachuca City, where most of our underserved residents live. A small collection of library materials as well as laptops and a printer were purchased.

Grant amount: $4000
• **Major Findings:** Ten town residents came and were very satisfied with the availability of books, DVDs, and computer services. Two patrons signed up for a library card. One patron who does not have transportation was able to scan and submit paperwork for social security benefits.

• **Lessons Learned:** Make sure that all other town departments understand the scope and timeline of the project. Create a backup plan if one department is not able to complete their part of the project on time.

• **Next Steps:** Look for funding opportunities to be able to open more days.
**Project Description:** The goal of the project was to empower patrons by providing financial literacy resource materials and programs to equip them with the necessary tools for building self-sufficiency. Funds were used to purchase these materials in both print and digital formats to target basic entry level financial literacy topics in both English and Spanish.

**Grant amount:** $4000
- **Major Findings**: Highest circ - *Clever Girl Finance*. Main Library accounted for 2/3 of all circ.

- **Lessons Learned**: Do not limit the titles to a single format, house all of the collection at one branch, or solely focus on business program offerings.

- **Next Steps**: The focus moving forward will be expanding our programs from business to financial literacy for kids and tweens (ages 3-12).
Let’s Talk about Diversity Literacy Kits
Glendale Public Library

- **Project Description:** The goal of the project was to support families in their learning of diversity concepts by encouraging conversations and providing dialogue opportunities with literature kits.
- **Grant amount:** $4000
**Major Findings:** Created 24 Literacy Kits for children. Each kit contained a set of picture books, manipulatives, discussion guides, and a caregiver guide.

**Lessons Learned:** The library created the Tough Topics literacy kit to allow for celebration and pride in the cultures portrayed in the kits while still offering something for patrons who were looking for titles to address race relations specifically.

**Next Steps:** Expanding the collection to include World Religions, Cooking, Holidays, and LGBTQIA+ topics.
The goal of this project was to celebrate and preserve the history of the Glendale Public Library's 100 Years as a community resource. Funds were used to purchase equipment to digitize and display photos and foundational documents from the Glendale Public Library, and to pay educational presenters to inform the community about life in Arizona and the Nation over the last 100 years.
Results

• 323 items digitized
• 150 currently uploaded to Arizona Memory Project
• 89% of participants “Learned or tried something new”
• 84% of participants were interested in learning more about the subjects
• 90% of participants planned to try the featured activity or attend a similar event in the future
• 85% of participants were more likely to use the resources and services provided by the library after attending a program
Key Takeaways

- Communicate clearly with partners about expectations
- Systemic Programming (repeating programs across branches) is not successful in Glendale
- Programming is a major driver of traffic to the library
- Hands-on adult programming (crafts) are much appreciated by our community
- Weekend afternoon cultural or multi-generational programming is also much appreciated by library patrons
All-Staff Training Day
East Flagstaff Community Library

- **Project Description:** The goal of the project was to provide training for all levels and locations of Flagstaff City-Coconino County Public Library staff by providing a day to participate in a training about Restorative Practices for Public & Workplace Settings.

- **Grant amount:** $4000
• **Major Findings:** 52 staff members were able to attend an entire day of training.

• **Lessons Learned:** Hiring a facilitator with experience in training staff is extremely important.

• **Next Steps:** An All-Day Staff Day will be requested yearly.
Project Description: The Eureka Lab coding and robotics program provided opportunities for children to learn how to code, use advanced technologies, and receive instruction on digital resources. Funds were used to purchase the Kids First coding and robot program, iPads to code DASH robots, a Smartboard for instruction, a portable digital document camera for instruction, LEGOos, and chargers to extend the life of the program.

Grant amount: $10,800
Major Findings:

- 100% of the participants enjoyed the program and asked for future programs.
- Classroom observation indicates that 100% of the participants mastered the robotics remote manual operation of the robots.
- The advanced students mentored their peers and were able to instruct them in how to problem solve, enhancing learning opportunities for all.

Lessons Learned:

- The learning curve for this type of project is significant. Therefore, staff wrote a curriculum to ease this learning curve.
- Start with a small group and one platform to ensure success and satisfaction.
Next Steps:
Create a web-based Eureka Lab Coding and Robotics Level 1 Dash curriculum that will be reproducible in other libraries and available to teachers and students on the web.
Offer STEAM play workshops quarterly using equipment acquired by this project.
Offer the Kids First Coding and Robotics PB & J Kits (purchased by this LSTA grant) to a 2nd grade classroom at Beaver Creek School. Host an Advanced Level 2 Coding and Robotics 3-D Printer workshop.
Teen Connections Internship Program
Apache Junction Public Library

- **Project Description:** This project provided an opportunity for a paid internship to a teen in our community. The goal was for the teen intern to learn leadership skills, strong work ethics and how to develop interpersonal relationships.
- **Grant amount:** $3500
- **Audience:** Teens & All Ages
**Major Findings:** Our Teen Intern was a huge asset to our summer reading program.
- Worked at the Youth Desk.
- Teen volunteer leader.
- Assisted with programs.
- Developed & coordinated a community-based program.
- Other projects and tasks.

**Lessons Learned:** Teens are very capable when given the opportunity and with guidance by an enthusiastic mentor! Teens are busy, so you must be flexible with your schedule.
Provide equitable library services to all people, including older adults, children, and library non-users due to homelessness, disability, limited literacy skills, and lack of transportation or awareness of our existing library services.
Bookmobile Renovation
Apache Junction Public Library

• **Major Findings:**
  - Increased library awareness & visibility
  - Increased assistance & depth of remote services
  - 90 new library cards & over 800 people served
  - Users sought out library cards, books, interactive experiences, & STEAM activities
  - Most Popular Materials: Adult Fiction, Adult Nonfiction, & Children’s Picture Books

• **Lessons Learned:**
  - Took longer than predicted!
  - Marketing was a challenge & a must!
  - Popularity grew w/ time & exposure!
  - Constant evolution & flexibility!
In The End:
Interest and demand for the Mobile Library has been proven by its popularity throughout the Apache Junction community. The project will continue with its monthly route, attendance at specialty fairs and festivals, and much more!

Next Steps:
- More marketing!
- Curated materials!
- Monthly route expansion!
- Specialized programming!
- More staff & department growth!
What’s YOUR Next Project?

The Arizona State Library will use LSTA funds for projects that support:

- Information Preservation and Access
- Informal Education
- Institutional Improvements
- Inclusive Communities
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 8, 2024</td>
<td>2024 LSTA application and certification deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3, 2024</td>
<td>Grant awards announced</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 17, 2024</td>
<td>Earliest date that grant funds may be requested</td>
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<td>May 17, 2024</td>
<td>Grant recipients’ workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 8, 2025</td>
<td>2024 LSTA projects completed; funds fully encumbered</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5, 2025</td>
<td>2024 LSTA final reports due; funds fully expended</td>
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Questions?

Email: jball@azlibrary.gov
Visit: azlibrary.gov/libdev/funding/lsta