

Community Focus

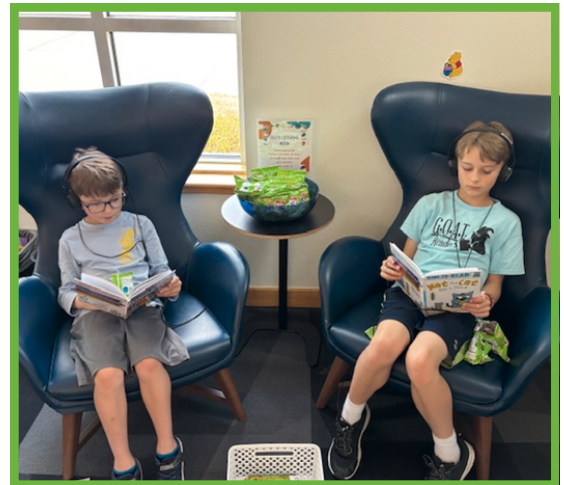
Clearview Library District



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When a community is rapidly growing and evolving, how do local anchor institutions like their public library keep up? Clearview Library District in Northern Colorado has some ideas. We had the pleasure of chatting with Library Director Erica Rose to hear about the innovative ways she and her team are reaching the people they serve. Our conversation began with her telling us a little about her approach to "meet the community where they are" and how the library is intentional about this mentality in everything that they do.

In just the past year the library has seen a 50% increase in attendance at its community programming, with over 50,000 participants. Currently, the library is running the Summer Adventure Program with an "Unearth a Story" theme. To kick off the event, the library held a fossil dig that included a real mining sluice, drawing about 1,000 residents.



Another critical piece of the library's success is the facilities themselves, which have recently been expanded. Both the Windsor and the new Severance Library branches now include gallery space featuring local artists, and the library gives patrons access to the arts through live concerts, dance programs, and even classes such as pottery-painting and watercolor.

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The library is also expanding its physical presence to the local recreation center. This location serves as an important spot before and after school while students wait for transportation. This is where the Community Recreation Center (CRC) Outpost comes in, with a self-checkout kiosk and books ranging from graphic novels to picture books to cookbooks — available to peruse and take home.

Clearview also boasts an impressive collection of items beyond physical books that can be checked out by patrons. Their Explore Kits include park passes, musical instruments, and even a laser tag set. Residents are utilizing the reading materials available to them, too, with about an 11% uptick in circulation over the past year. Erica also understands that some of her patrons love to read but "just don't have time to get into the library," so they have a large variety of digital materials available.



As we closed the conversation, Erica reminded us that E-Rate is part of the picture. It keeps the library connected, expanding Clearview's community outreach.

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In fact, Erica highlighted the importance of connection in Clearview Library's philosophy: "I think it's important just to point out that, in addition to this idea that libraries connect people with resources, it's really, really powerful that libraries connect people to one another... that's a key guiding philosophy for us when we're making decisions."



We are grateful to work with organizations like Clearview Library District and appreciate that they take the time to share more about what they do!

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