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Home for the Holidays?

This holiday season, indulge in all that Phoenix Public Library has to offer! If you ask us, the best stocking stuffer is the amazing library card. Attend a [FREE in-person or virtual library program](#); there's something for everyone!

- Plan a family movie night with Kanopy
- Create a delicious, homecooked meal with AtoZ WorldFood
- Build the perfect playlist for entertaining, a day trip, or quiet time
- Make a reading wish list and tackle it this winter.

Avoid holiday burnout, save money, and enrich your life with free programs and resources at your library. Find more ideas at [Home for the Holidays](#).

Submit Your Art for Upcoming Exhibit

Deadline: 5 p.m. on December 31



Celebrate Black Voices 2025 Virtual Art Exhibit

Young artists grades K-12 are invited to submit original art depicting Black history and culture now through December 31, 2024.

[More info and submission forms on phoenixpubliclibrary.org/kids.](#)



Calling all young artists! Phoenix Public Library invites you to draw/paint/otherwise depict an individual or historical event featuring Black history or culture for our annual [Celebrate Black Voices Virtual Art Exhibit](#). Choose someone or something you find important, inspirational, or fascinating! It can be a subject you learned in school, read in a book or know from everyday life. Look for interesting and unique subjects to make your artwork stand out. Be creative! Make it your own! More details at [www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/kids-art-exhibit](#)

Selected entries will be displayed in a virtual art gallery on Phoenix Public Library's website February to December 2025 and featured on social media during Black History Month.

The details:

- Artists in grades K-12 are invited to depict an important person or event celebrating the Black experience in America.
- Each artist may enter one (1) drawing.
- Illustrations can be in any medium: crayon, marker, colored pencil, paint, collage, etc.
- Artwork should be no larger than 11" x 17" on white paper. No lined or colored paper.
- Each submission must be accompanied by a submission form

Entries may be submitted in person at any [Phoenix Public Library location](#) or by email to socialmedia@phoenix.gov.

December Highlights



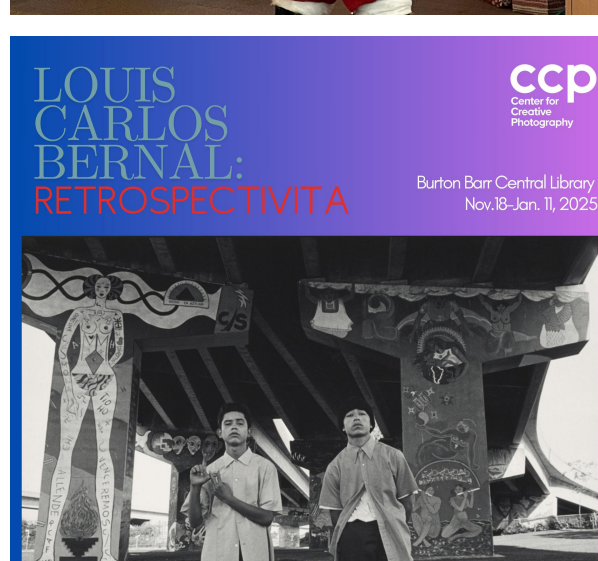
Dec. 5 Holiday Express at South Mountain Community Library

Join us for a festive holiday event featuring fun Storytimes, activity stations and crafts, and meet a very special guest.

We encourage guests to wear your favorite pajamas! [Details here.](#)

Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024

Time: 5:30pm - 6:30pm



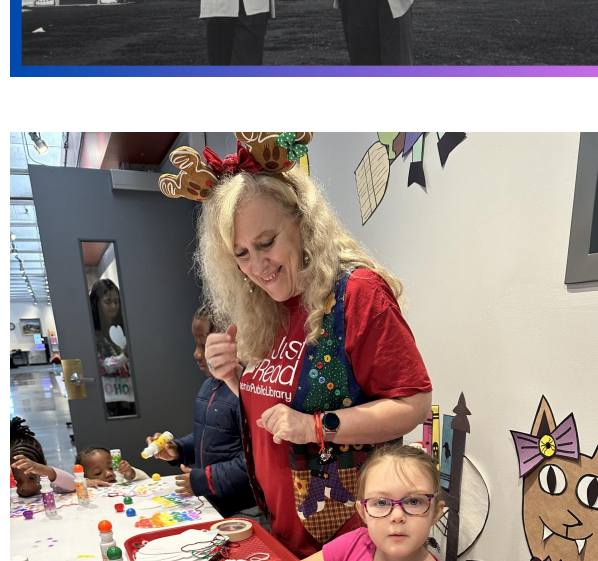
Dec. 6 First Friday Opening Reception

Join us during [December First Friday](#) for the opening reception of an eight-week-long pop-up exhibition, *Louis Carlos Bernal: Retrospectiva*, at Burton Barr Central Library on the 1st floor. **Come celebrate with us and enjoy a live DJ, exhibition tour, and zine making activity!**

Retrospectiva is a smaller version of the retrospective exhibition on view at [Center for Creative Photography](#) in Tucson.

Date: Friday, December 6, 2024

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm



Dec. 7 Yucca Library's 2nd Annual Jolly Holiday Celebration

Join us [Yucca Library's Jolly Holiday Celebration](#) featuring a Polar Express Storytime and you'll get to take home your very own jingle bell.

Other special activities: make your own mini gingerbread house and take your picture in front of the snowman photo booth.

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Time: 2:00pm - 3:30pm



Dec. 10 & 14 Tamalada at Hamon Library

Join us at Hamon Library to learn about whole grains and tamales! We will try a recipe from a local vendor, craft with corn husks, and share recipes and stories.

Don't forget to bring your favorite tamale or seasonal recipe to share with others-- please see a staff member for help with printing or copying your recipe. This event is open to adults and families with children of all ages.

[See Dec. 10 details here.](#)

[See Dec. 14 details here.](#)

December Featured Free Virtual Author Talks



Dec. 4 Unearthed: Exploring the Smithsonian National Gem Collection with Dr. Jeffrey Post

The Smithsonian's *Unearthed* explores the scandals, mysteries, and human stories behind the world's greatest gems. In this webinar, fact is separated from fiction and Dr. Post will reveal fresh information about the Hope Diamond, Star of Asia Sapphire, Carmen Lucia Ruby, Hooker Emerald, and Blue Heart Diamond. Revel in tales and fascinating facts surrounding rarely displayed gems from the Smithsonian vault and recent additions made to the collection. [Register here.](#)

Dec. 11 On Pulse-Pounding, Family Driven Mysteries: A Conversation with Laura Dave

Join us for a captivating conversation with #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Thing He Told Me*, Laura Dave, as she chats with us online about her newest book *The Night We Lost Him*. *The Night We Lost Him* focuses on estranged siblings who discover their father has been keeping a secret for over fifty years, one that may have been fatal...

The authorities rule the death accidental, but Nora and her estranged brother Sam have other ideas. As Nora and Sam form an uneasy alliance to unravel the mystery, they start putting together the pieces of their father's past—and uncover a family secret that changes everything. [Register here.](#)

Need Some #TBR Inspiration?

Phoenix Public Library shares **BEST BOOKS WE READ IN 2024!**

This book follows Cyrus, a recovering alcoholic, who is searching for answers to life's biggest questions. Death, life, mortality, purpose, art, identity, language, belonging - all of it. There is so much in this book about the interconnected links between everything that makes us human. I really loved Cyrus as a character and enjoyed following him on his journey for answers, many of which were not what he expected. I found myself thinking about this book long after I finished it. - Anna C. **Martyr!** Kaveh Akbar

This is a fictional story about a deaf boarding school and the teachers and students who are struggling to make their way in a world that doesn't understand their desire to fit in...and to remain separate. I love the way the author interspersed the rich history of deaf culture with the story to enhance the narrative. I never knew there was so much controversy surrounding things like cochlear implants and lip reading vs. sign language, and I thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the deaf community while reading a great story! - Julie H. **TRUE BIZ** Sara Novic

This book tells more than one story, but the common thread is a community library and the person who runs it. I'm not usually a realistic-fiction fan, but this was a cozy read with a hint of magical realism. Though the characters in each story have problems they're going through, they each end up at the library. The overall effect of the book leaves you feeling happy. For those not really big on reality, or who just want something inspiring and uplifting, this one's a must read. - Tracy S. **THE LIBRARY** Sarah M. Blyden

[Read the full list on our website!](#)

Curious as to what are the best books Phoenix Public Librarians read this year?

We [compiled a list](#) for you! Browse the list, be inspired and add to your 2025 reading wish list. From books that will pull your heartstrings to children's fiction, there is something here for everyone.

Residential Grass Incentives Are Here!

RESIDENTIAL GRASS INCENTIVES

Convert grass to desert landscaping and save **55 GALLONS** of water each year per square foot.

Looking to save water and money on your City Services Bill in the new year? Then, take the first step towards desert landscaping through the new residential grass incentive program. Receive \$2 per square foot by removing at least 250 square feet of grass. For more information, visit [phoenix.gov/SaveWaterIncentives](#).

Upcoming Closures

All Phoenix Public Library locations and the Bookmobile will be closed **Friday, December 13, 2024**, for our annual Staff Development Day.

All Phoenix Public Library locations and the Bookmobile will be closed **Tuesday, December 24, 2024**, for Christmas Eve and on **Wednesday, December 25, 2024**, for Christmas Day.

