**Project title:** Libros for Oregon: Collections Connect Communities

**Goal:** Spanish-speaking Oregonians state-wide will have access to high quality, culturally relevant collections at libraries participating in Libros for Oregon.

**Project abstract:** In order to improve library services to Oregon’s Hispanic communities, especially those in rural areas, Libros for Oregon will:

* send representatives to the Feria Internacional del Libro (FIL) in Guadalajara to purchase high quality Spanish-language books for participating libraries, with an emphasis on small, rural Oregon libraries (the FIL is the largest Spanish-language book fair in the world and the best source of culturally-appropriate books written in Spanish, which are difficult and sometimes impossible to procure via usual means in the US);
* help libraries to develop and implement outreach plans for working with their Hispanic communities (OLA’s Outreach and Reforma Round Tables will assist with outreach training, including archive-able webinars, and will help participating libraries develop outreach strategies that can be implemented by Spanish- and non-Spanish-speaking staff);
* and create a “Best of FIL” booklist (annotated to show US availability) for all Oregon libraries to use in collection development.

**Year One:** In LSTA Year 1, the grant administrator, in conjunction with an advisory council of key stakeholders (who will keep their constituents informed), will work to plan a program (including a participant application priority rubric; purchase request form; outcome-based outreach plan questionnaire; outreach report forms; etc.) that could be sustainably administered by the Oregon Library Association after the LSTA grant ends.

**Year Two:** In LSTA Year 2, libraries state-wide will be invited to apply to participate in the program; and the administrator and council will implement the proposed activities and present a final proposal for long-term funding to the OLA Executive Board.

**Description of persons benefiting from the project:** Spanish-speaking Oregonians, especially those living in rural areas

**Estimated number of persons benefiting from the project:** 1500 annually.

Using the Oregon public library median service area of about 7,000 people and statewide Hispanic/Latino population of about 12%, 50 attendees at programs and outreach events would reach approximately 5% of the average community’s Spanish-speaking population. With anticipated annual participation from 10 libraries statewide—with an emphasis on supporting small, rural libraries, and supporting library outreach or programs for Hispanic/Latino communities—the outreach component of the program is anticipated to reach an average of 500 people over the course of the project. While the number of patrons using each of these libraries’ collections is hard to estimate, 100 patrons at each of 10 participating libraries seems like a reasonable assumption given the size of the intended participant libraries.

**Year 1** (July 2016-June 2017)**: Planning**

**Objective: Develop a successful framework, including procedures and documentation, to conduct Year 2 activities.**

Activities:

* Interview 3 FIL purchasing cooperatives to identify best practices by September 2016
* Create advisory group comprised of representatives OLA, Reforma, LINCC, and small, rural libraries by September 2016
* Meet quarterly with project advisory committee to plan application process, outreach requirements for participating small libraries, accounting procedures, evaluation, and other necessary program elements.
* Create application, application priority rubric, purchase request form, outcome-based outreach plan questionnaire, outreach report form, and any other necessary documentation by April 2017
* Create procedures for managing finances, purchase lists, shipping, and any other necessary activities by April 2017
* Create basic website post project resources by April 2017. The website could stand alone (created using free software such as WordPress or Weebly) and be linked to existing library and community resources, or be hosted by an existing partner organization’s website.
* Present the draft project proposal, documents, and website to the OLA Board for initial approval and feedback.
* Complete LSTA 2017 Continuing Grant Proposal Form, including detailed budget for Year 2 activities by April 2017

**Year 2** (July 2017-June 2018)**: Implementation**

**Objective: Purchase Spanish language books on behalf of Oregon libraries.** Participating libraries will contribute up to $500 (or another amount determined during the planning year) purchase the books for their collections. LSTA funds will not be used for collection development.

Activities:

* Promote one-page applications for Libros for Oregon on kidslib, libsor, and R2R Oregon listservs in June 2017
* Review applications and select up to 10 participating libraries by August 2017. 5 libraries will be members of LINCC and 5 libraries will be those serving fewer than 20,000 people and/or libraries more than 10 miles from a city of 25,000 people. The requirement of 5 LINCC libraries is only for the trial implementation. When OLA assumes responsibility for the program, they will select 10 libraries from anywhere in Oregon based on the applications they receive each year.
* Apply for ALA/FIL Pass Program by September 1, 2017
* Participating libraries will complete one-page purchase request form by October 2017. Each library may provide up to $500 (or another amount determined during the planning year) for the representative to spend on materials.
* Fund-collection methodology will be determined in Year 1 and included in the 2017 LSTA Continuing Grant Proposal Form
* Compile purchase request forms into master list for use at FIL by November 2017
* Send volunteer librarian(s) to FIL in November 2017
* Deliver books to participating libraries in December 2017
* Planned activities subject to change based on results of Year 1 work.

**Objective: Participating libraries will provide outreach services to their Spanish-speaking communities after receiving books.**

Activities:

* Plan and provide a one-hour “Low-Budget Outreach to Your Spanish-Speaking Community” virtual training for participating libraries in September 2017
* Participating libraries will develop an outcome-based Outreach Plan by November 2017, using the one-page questionnaire created during the implementation year. The plan will explain how the library will connect with its Spanish-speaking community in January-June 2018.
* Participating libraries will submit a one-page Outreach Report summarizing the results of their project and future outreach plans by August 2018
* Post Outreach Reports to project website by September 2018

**Objective: Create a “Best of FIL” booklist for all Oregon libraries to use as a collection development resource.**

Activities

* Volunteer(s) or LIS grad student will compile information about purchased books by February 2019. In addition to a traditional booklist, volunteer or grad student may also create a digital booklist via a site such as LibraryThing or Goodreads.
* Volunteer(s) or LIS grad student will determine and indicate what titles on the list can be purchased through US vendors or publishers by February 2018
* Invite other Oregon libraries who attend FIL (such as Multnomah County Library) to contribute information about materials they purchased at FIL to the master booklist.
* Distribute booklist (Word or PDF format) and link to digital booklist (if available) on kidslib, libsor, REFORMA, and R2R listservs by February 2018
* Post booklist on project website by February 2018
* Survey Oregon library community about booklist use by September 2018

**Objective: Secure continuing funding for Libros for Oregon.**

Activities:

* Advisory group will meet to review Year 2 activities and revise proposal for continued funding via OLA
* Submit detailed proposal to OLA Executive Board for consideration no later than June 1, 2019

**Fiscal Agent:**Clackamas County Business and Community Services, on behalf of LINCC (Libraries in Clackamas County). Greg Williams will be the administrator.

**Grant Application Committee:**

(with input from other stakeholders and interested parties)

* Martín Blasco, Outreach Librarian for Latino and Youth Services Program, WCCLS
* Deborah Gitlitz, Outreach Librarian, Wilsonville Public Library
* Barratt Miller, Youth Services Librarian, Oregon City Public Library
* Angelica Novoa De Cordeiro, Canby Public Library

**Grant Administrator:** Deborah Gitlitz, Wilsonville Public Library.

Deborah has 20 years' experience as a bilingual youth librarian in multicultural, economically diverse environments, including 15 years at several branches of the Multnomah County Library (MCL) in Portland, OR. She served as administrator, curriculum developer and lead teacher for Families Reading Together/Familias Leyendo Juntas, a 2-year, LSTA grant-funded bilingual family literacy outreach program. She has Spanish reading, writing, and conversational proficiency and is experienced in providing outreach services to diverse communities and training to staff. She has attended the FIL three times to select materials for MCL.

**Next Steps**

**Formation of Advisory Council** (“comprised of representatives from OLA, Reforma, LINCC, and small, rural libraries”). Currently committed to be on the council:

* Deborah Gitlitz (representing LINCC)
* Barratt Miller (OLA & LINCC)
* Martín Blasco (Reforma)
* Angelica Novoa De Cordeiro, Canby Public Library
* Star Khan, bilingual Outreach Librarian at Driftwood (Lincoln City)
* Josie Hanneman, Community Librarian at Deschutes (expressed interest at OLA)
* Amy King Schoppert, Asst Director at The Dalles-Wasco County
* Ted Smith, Director, Newport Library
* Erin Wells, Director, Milton-Freewater Library

**Exploratory Expedition to FIL (Feria Internacional del Libro):**

Wilsonville Library is sending Deborah to the book fair in Guadalajara this November (2016), both to purchase materials for WVPL and informally to scope out details that will be helpful in the implementation of the project.

**Year 1 planning activities** (as listed above).

**Questions?**

Please contact Deborah Gitlitz:

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