



ACHIEVING SOCIAL CHANGE: THE POWER OF A COMMUNITY LIBRARY IN PUERTO RICO THE JANE STERN DORADO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

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ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW



- In the five decades since its founding, the private **non-profit** Jane Stern Dorado Community Library (JSDCL) has continued to grow, evolve, and expand its reach on an island where libraries are scarce.
- JSDCL has been committed to engaging with the community to understand its emerging informational and educational needs and create new plans to meet those needs

“There's no end to what a community library can do since it's not in debt to anyone except the community it serves”. -Jane Stern

BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE MAIN LIBRARY

- Additionally, our main branch has increased its reach through the addition of eight satellite libraries located in rural pockets through neighboring municipalities.
- These satellite libraries echo the main Library's emphasis on learning programs for adults, teens, and children by including early education play areas with books and educational toys, computers and technology for teens and adults, and reliable internet access linked to various digital resources.



SATELLITE LIBRARIES MAP

1. Elisa Dávila Vázquez School, Vega Alta
2. Cristóbal Santana Melecio School, Dorado
3. Rafael Hernández School, Vega Baja
4. Luisa Valderrama Martínez School, Dorado
5. José Robles Otero School, Toa Baja
6. José Santos Alegría School, Dorado
7. Casa de Oración Cedro del Líbano, Dorado
8. Municipal Library Evaristo Izcoa, Toa Alta
9. Renacer Community Center, Ciales





LOCAL CONTEXT

COMMUNITY NEEDS

- 30% of people living in Dorado and surrounding communities live below the poverty level
- Public schools are very low-performing
- Children have limited access to fine arts and enrichment programming
- Three major interruptions in five years: Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, a series of earthquakes in January 2020, and the COVID-19 pandemic and Fiona Hurricane.
- Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, critical broadband infrastructure was destroyed which still has not been properly rebuilt, leaving many residents without access to the Internet.
- As a result of the pandemic, students in Puerto Rico lost 159 school days, practically an entire school year.
- Distance learning created lagging conditions for students from poor, historically underserved communities.
- Neither teachers nor students had the technology or support necessary to implement virtual education.
- The Department of Education permanently closed more than 600 schools

COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Schools continue to lack essential infrastructure including air conditioning, technology, access to books, and safe structures.
- A new schedule of school repairs has caused interruptions in the local educational system across the island again this year.
- National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests corresponding to last school year in the subjects of Reading and Mathematics place the jurisdiction in position 53, being the very last among all fifty states and territories of the United States.
- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that today **68.6% of residents have access to a home computer and that 60.4% have a home broadband subscription.**
- The Institute of Statistics of Puerto Rico found that less than half of people have internet access in 38 municipalities.

PR NEEDS MORE LIBRARIES

- 37% of public schools do not have school libraries
- Students and their families need access to appropriate information resources, entertaining books, motivating educational environments, high-quality, culturally sustainable, and revitalizing instruction to increase student engagement and accelerate post-pandemic learning.
- Students and their families need places where they can find support.
- Our Library represents the only support space for communities in 5 municipalities (Dorado, Vega Alta, Vega Baja, Toa Alta, Toa Baja, and Ciales), adding up to a population of 284,747 inhabitants.

IF WE ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT EQUITY...

- Equity recognizes that some groups (like territories and Latinxs) were (and are) disadvantaged in accessing information, education, and opportunities and are, therefore, underrepresented or marginalized in many organizations and institutions.



WHAT IS THE POWER OF ONE COMMUNITY LIBRARY IN PUERTO RICO?

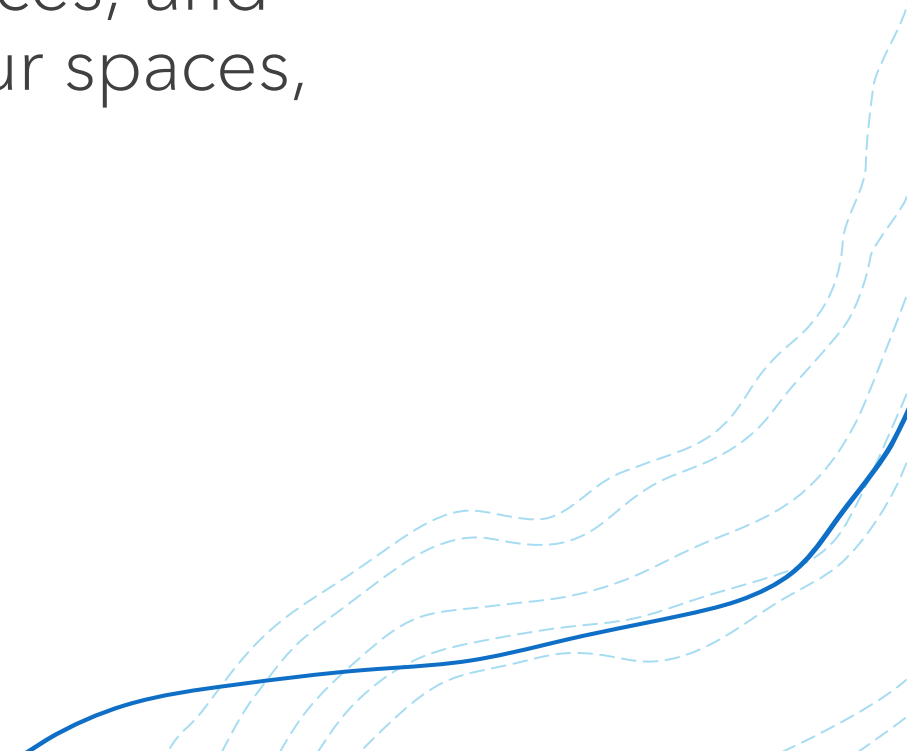
"There's no end to what a community library can do since it's not in debt to anyone except the community it serves". -Jane Stern

JSDCL programs: responding to Community needs

JSDCL has developed new offerings and services including but not limited to: free educational programs, access to a diverse, bilingual collection of books, digital resources, internet access in 9 locations, and a space to come together for any number of purposes.



- We seek to ensure that everyone feels welcomed, valued, respected, and safe in our spaces; to promote intellectual freedom and protect the rights and privacy of all patrons; and to celebrate the diverse cultures, experiences, and perspectives in our community through our spaces, collections, and programs.



FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 STATISTICS

FROM JULY-2022-JUNE 2023





LIBRARY VISUAL TOUR

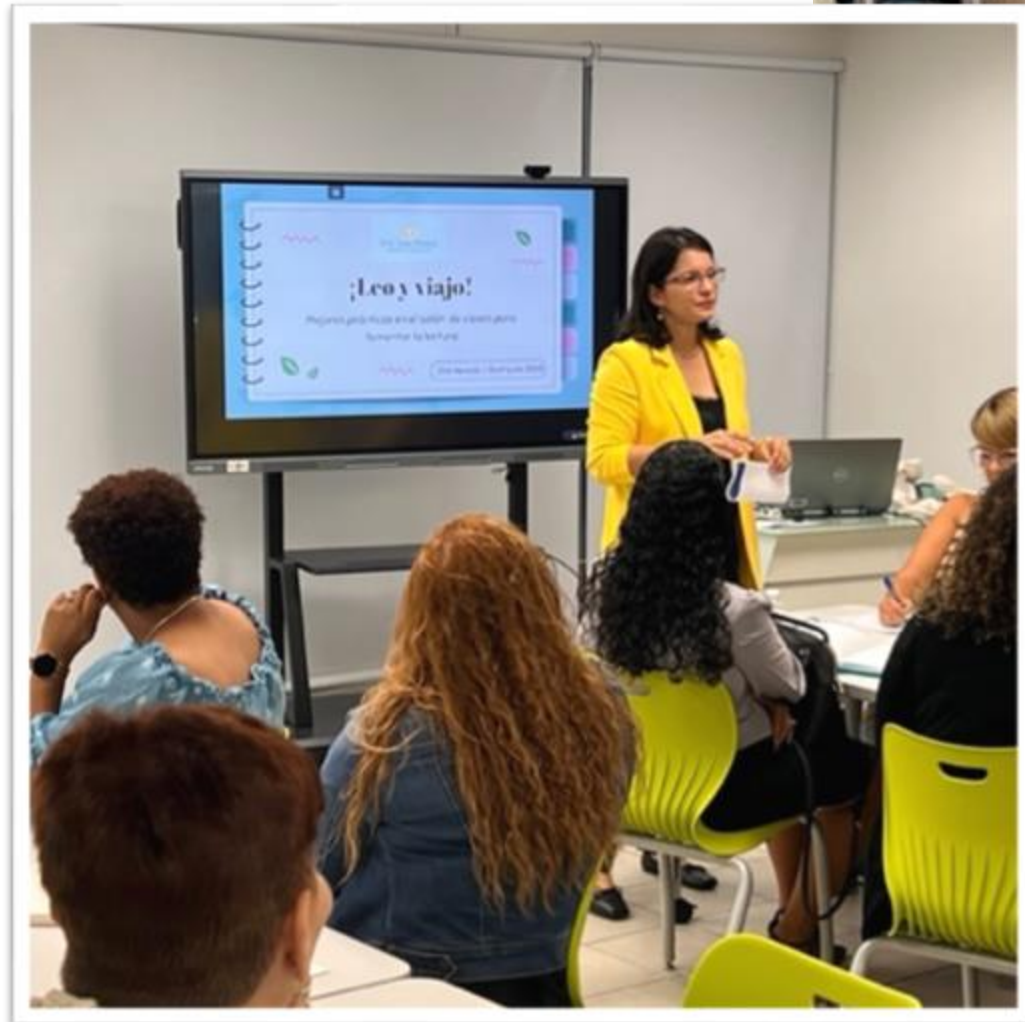
JUVENILE AREA & CONFERENCE/MUSIC ROOM



COMPUTER LAB & FRONT DESK



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



CO-LEARNING

- The Co-learning Program aims to train young people in sustainability and renewable energy so that they can identify and evaluate the energy and climate adaptation needs.
- The first phase was a series of workshops and discussions with experts who will share reflections on issues and skills related to renewable energy, sustainability and their professions.
- In the second phase, participants will be able to complete energy audits in identified spaces of their Network.
- July 2022 to June 2023 there's been a total of **8 sessions/ 16 hours**. With a total of **17 students enrolled** in the program and **11 students completed** the program.



REGULAR PROGRAMS AT JSDCL

01

Music Program



Youth program for 12-17 years old
Basic and intermediate music Guitar strings,

02

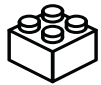
Ballet Program



For boys and girls from 8 to 13 years old

03

Lego Club/STEM Program



For boys and girls from 7 to 12 years old

04

Theatre Program



For young people from 6th to 8th grade

05

Magical Day



Bilingual story and crafts
Reading buddies by volunteers
For toddlers-11 years old

06

Yoga Program



Yoga for older adults and beginners

07

Impúlsate Program



For High School Students
College Board Aptitude Test Review

08

Educational Summer Camp



Summer educational workshops, such as taekwondo, theater, reading & creative writing, art, Club Lego STEM and excursions

09

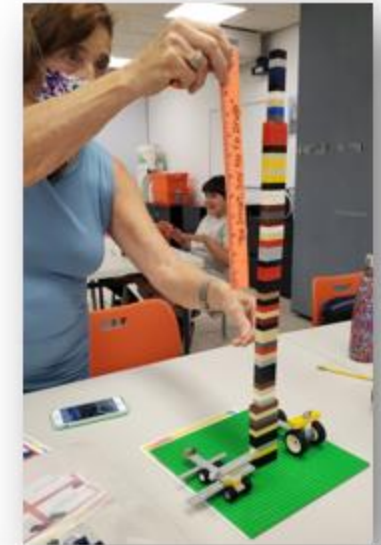
Early Childhood Enrichment



Children's program from 2 to 6 years
Reading, Art, Music and Science

LEGO CLUB STEM

- Inspire children to think creatively, reason, unleash their potential, and experiment without limits, through interactive games while at the same time encouraging reading.
- 42 participants were enrolled in the program. We were able to maintain **40 participants** during this period.
- **9 sessions** with a total of **18 hours** of club time.
- **118** participants assistances .
- **8 volunteers** helped during sessions. Plus **5 more volunteers** helped in the preparation of the activities.
 - 3 Adults
 - 10 Students



IMPÚLSATE PROGRAM



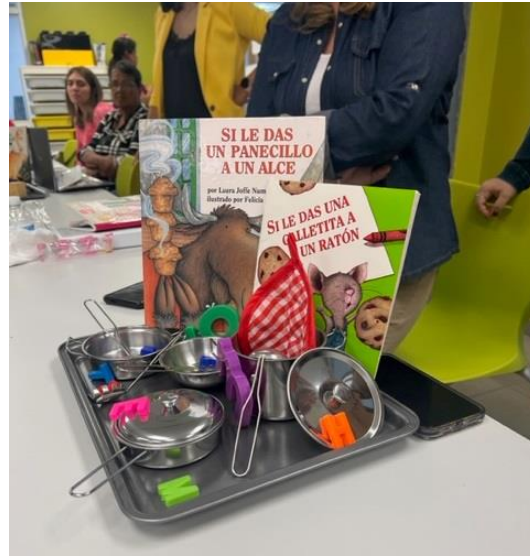
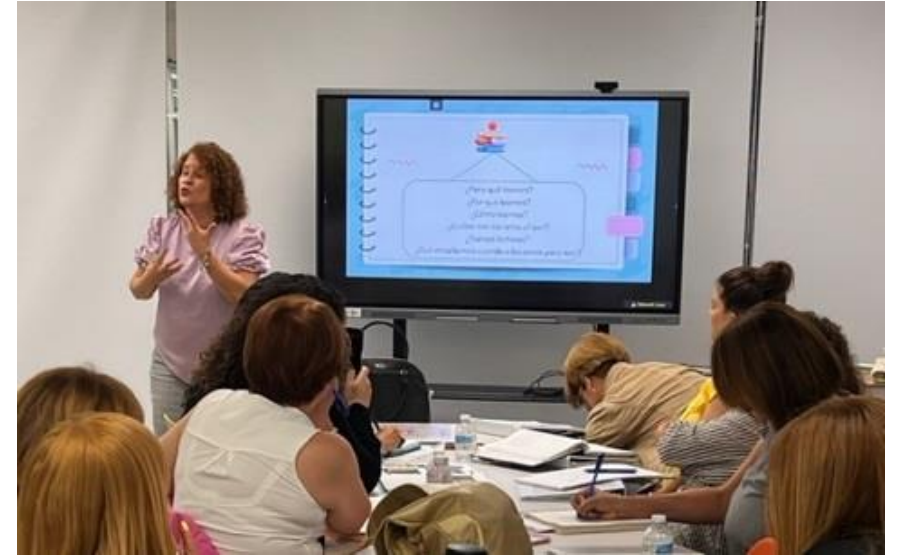
Include various components:

1. College Board Academic Aptitude Test Review (PAA)
This is a free program for high school students, provided at two different locations: Tasis School in Dorado and the Nicolás Sevilla Guemárez High School in Toa Alta. Funded by Ángel Ramos Foundation October 2022 and February 2023.
2. 15 sessions/ 45 hours, 210 students were enrolled, and 193 students completed the program.
3. Leadership and Personal Finances Workshops

LEO Y VIAJO IMPACT (READ AND TRAVEL WITH JSDCL)

- 29 teachers applied, 26 participated in the entire cycle, 25 delivered evidence of the reading corner.
- We managed to offer 10 hours of training and motivate the teachers to develop their reading corners.
- Each teacher received \$200 incentive.
- Teachers received a beautiful case with 25 books and teaching resources.
- We distributed 650 books, will benefit 462 students in three schools located in three municipalities: Vega Alta, Dorado and Toa Baja.





READING CORNERS





Lego



Dance



Creative writing



Taekwondo

SUMMER WORKSHOPS
51 students



Theater



Art



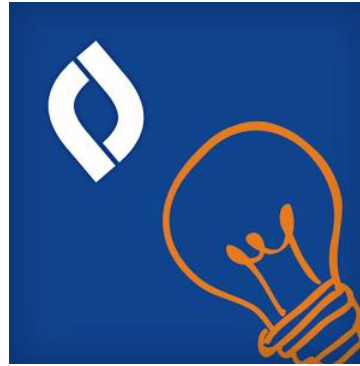
Wellbeing



Baking

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

DIGITAL RESOURCES



Destiny Discover by Follet
Our digital catalog & library management system



MackinVIA
Our first virtual library and digital collections



Britannica Library
Encyclopedia Britannica



ComicsPlus
Database with over 22k comics, mangas & graphic novels



DogoNEWS & Youngzine
Databases of articles about Science, Social Studies, Civics, World & the Environment written for young readers

SEAL WORKSHOP

After the first visit and workshop with a group of homeschoolers, we offered 3 more programs: 2 at JSDCL and 1 at the local public school Rafael Hernández Marín.

We had a total of over 302 participants.



Image Credit: NCIL @ SSI

SEAL workshop with public school Rafael Hernández Marín, Vega Baja, PR 

COLLABORATIONS

- Dorado, Toa Alta and Ciales Municipalities
 - Banco Popular Foundation, Revive La Música Program
 - House of Representatives – Of. Rafael “Tatito” Hernández- Internship Summer Program, Dorado Municipality
 - Renacer Comunitario- Fronton, Ciales
 - Trifecta Arts established the first the Ballet Program
 - Kinesis
 - Tasis Dorado
 - Flamboyán Foundation -*Comunidades de Aprendizaje* supported our initiative ¡Leo y Viajo! impacting three schools:
 - Escuela Ecológica- Dorado
 - Elisa Dávila- Vega Alta
 - José Robles Otero- Toa Baja
 - Resilient Power For Puerto Rico
 - Siete Quillas
 - Banco Popular Foundation
 - ASMCA
 - Christian Military Academy
 - Peter Alfond Foundation
 - Jairo Estrada
 - Franklin Noon Rotary Club
 - Subway Dorado
 - Todos Together
- 

VI. FUTURE PLANS

- Develop alliances with other libraries and the educational sector.
- Continue staff training and professional development
- Continue program implementation and evaluation.
- Enhance JSDCL admin structure.
- Develop our communication plan.
- Web site redesign and update.
- Continue learning about our community needs.
- Celebrate JSDCL 50 years!